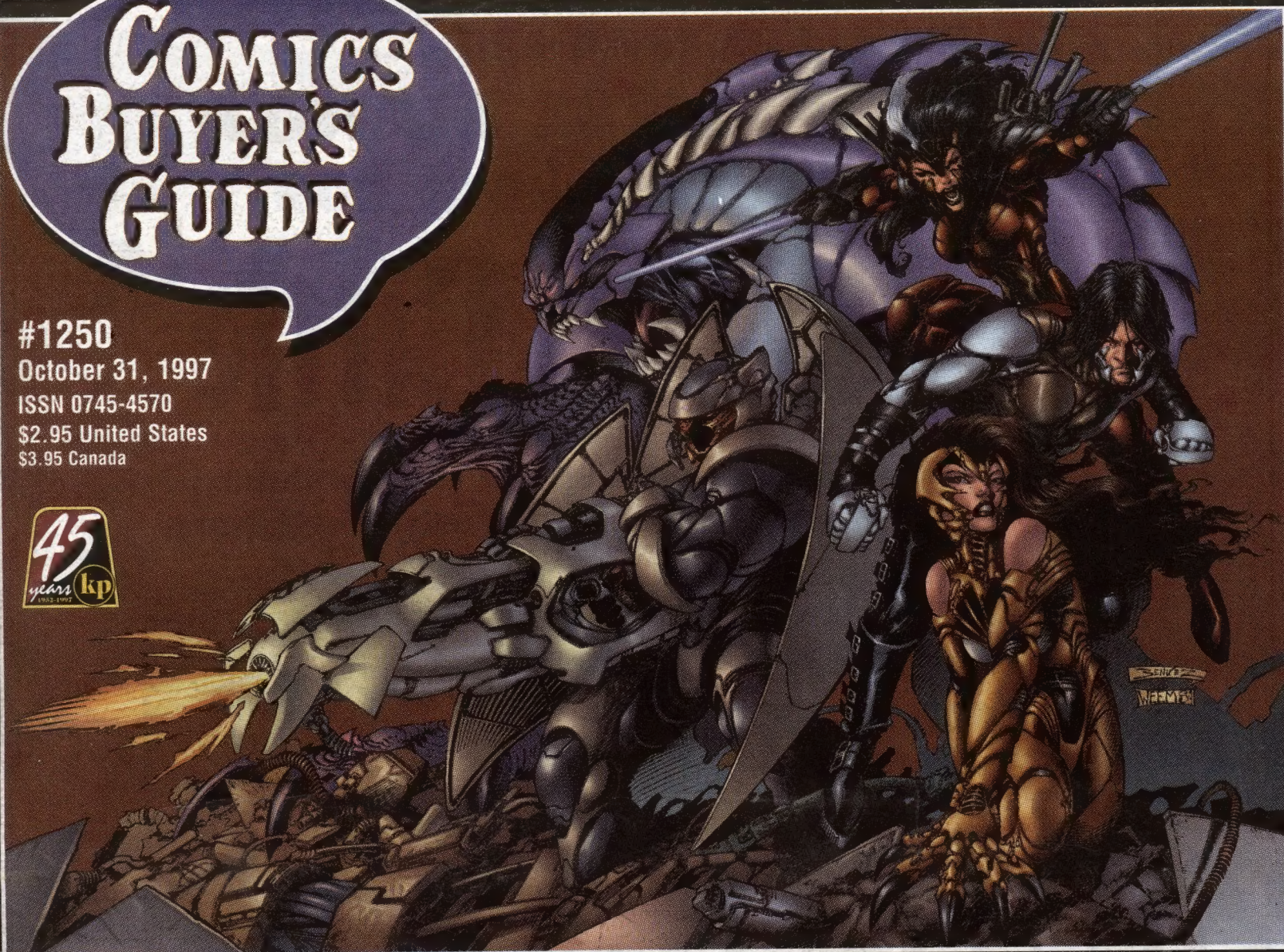
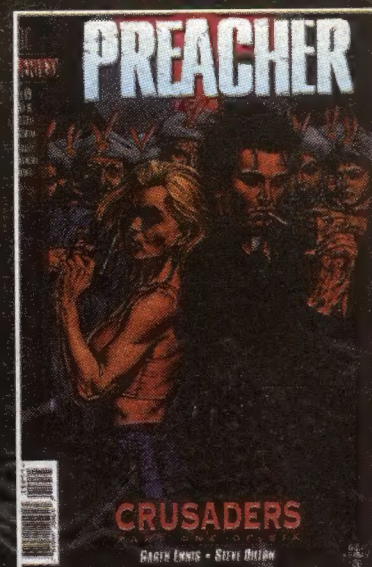


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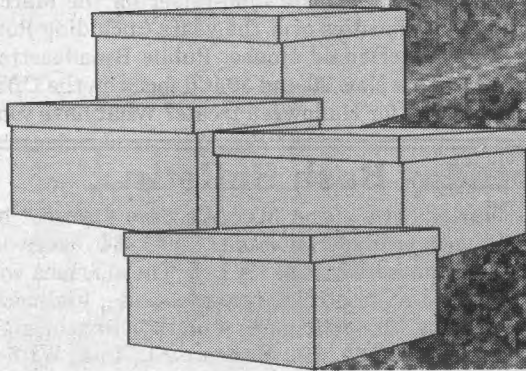
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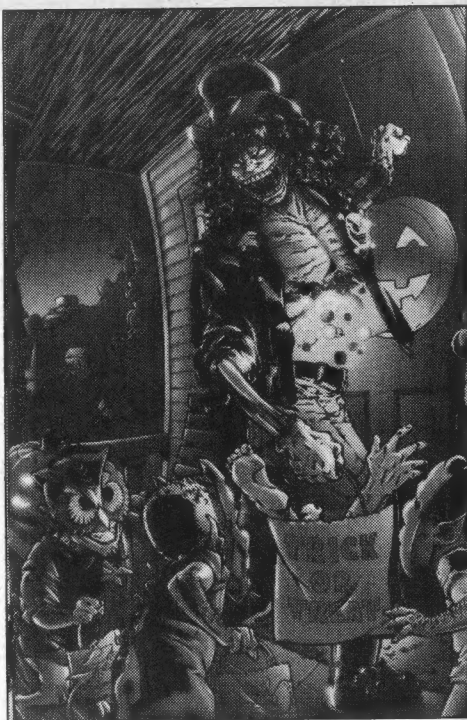
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This week in



On our cover:

Every hero has his or her antithesis, and some of the best villains have become so popular they have garnered their own fan bases and comics series. There are also denizens of the dark side who exist solely to cause mischief and mayhem, with no heroic element to stop them. And there are even "bad dudes" who find themselves forced to do good, whether they want to or not.

This week's main focus is *Witchblade* and *The Darkness*, the latter the creation of Garth Ennis. Two of Ennis' other series, *Hitman* and *Preacher*, are also featured.

In addition, supernatural elements from *Chaos!* and *Claypool* are part of our Halloween issue, and Marvel's *Deadpool* takes a little trip through time for his obligatory "team-up" with Spider-Man.

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Editorial

By Maggie Thompson

One of the best ways to promote comics is to associate comics with nice things in people's minds. To some this will be as simple as buying kids copies of the latest issue of *Sonic*.

But we can't let such outreach stop there. Drew Borgstrom's annual Milwaukee Children's Comic Convention has raised more than \$15,000 in the past four years for the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Don's name. And he and I appeared during a TV fund-raising blitz, offering the check to the hospital spokespeople.

Christmas on the Green has raised thousands of dollars for public Christmas decorations, conducting auctions of comics art to fund seasonal celebrations in the community of Thomas Nast — the cartoonist who created today's image of Santa Claus.

Every year, The Clear View School, sponsored by the Association for Mentally Ill Children of Westchester Inc., auctions original signed cartoon art to raise funds. The school was founded by Harvey Kurtzman, among others, three decades ago and is a day treatment program for emotionally disturbed children.

The art auction is the school's major fund-raiser, and this year marks the 12th annual event. This year, material auctioned will include the following signed art:

- illustrations by Jack Davis
- two pages by R. Crumb
- Spider-Man work by Al Williamson
- work by Kurtzman
- work by Al Jaffee
- work by *New Yorker* artist Jack Ziegler
- *New Yorker* cover by Art Spiegelman

The date for the Clear View auction is Nov. 15. Interested collectors can contact the school at (914) 941-4653, fax (914) 941-1649.

And, while you're at it, we'd like you to share ways in which you've helped to identify comics in people's minds with positive images. The San Diego convention annually participates in the Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive (and many exhibitors donate rewards for donors in goodie packages). The Charlotte convention and Event Comics raised money for firefighters' burn centers. Phil Yeh has donated countless hours to pro-literacy programs. Mid-Ohio-Con began as a fund-raiser for the March of Dimes and has raised nearly \$1 million for charities over the years (including Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Ronald McDonald House, Public Broadcasting, and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund). This Nov. 29 and 30 it'll focus on the CBLDF.

And how about giving comics away for Halloween treats? What have you done?

Birthday Bash Bulletin

Both *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz and Marvel's Stan Lee will be 75 this fall and **CBG** will celebrate with two special issues — #1254 (cover-dated Nov. 28) for Schulz and #1258 (cover-dated Dec. 26) for Lee. These issues will feature a retrospective along with birthday greetings, reminiscences, and comments of appreciation from each man's fans. To participate, send in your material to: John Jackson Miller, **Comics Buyer's Guide**, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990. You can also fax it to John at (715) 445-4087 or e-mail it to ohso@krause.com.

The deadline for the Schulz issue is Oct. 31 and the deadline for the Lee issue is Dec. 1.

Coming up in

#1251

Nov. 7

Silver Surfer features

- An early look at the animated series
- A Marvel Price Guide

Ships Oct. 21

#1252

Nov. 14

Vampirella/Dracula features

- A team-up between the Mistress of Draculon and the Dark Count
- The Dark Age

Ships Oct. 28

And coming up in the weeks ahead:

#1253 (Nov. 21) — A Veteran's Day tribute

#1257 (Dec. 19) — A look at spies

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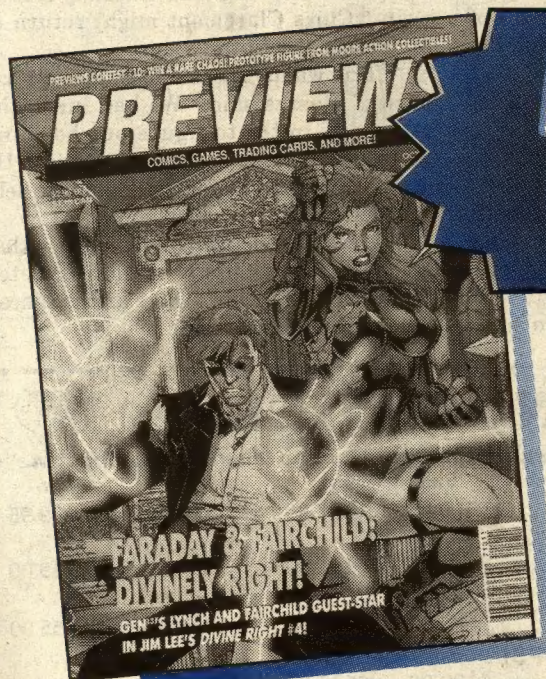


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- Tie one on with **PREVIEWS**! An art entire gallery of entries and winners from the **PREVIEWS** August Design a Tie Contest!
- The debut of DC's new "**Early Look**" section. Preview upcoming DC projects now!
- **Sirius** and **Brom** sit down for a close, personal chat about life, art, and comic books!
- An excerpt of the **Dave Sim** interview from **Feature Magazine**!



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Marvel settlement fails as Toy Biz proposes new plan

By Michael Dean

Marvel Entertainment's latest plan to pay off its debts has collapsed due to the failure of its leading lender, the Chase Manhattan Bank, to secure the required support of two-thirds of Marvel's lenders for the proposed settlement. Marvel and Chase Manhattan had reached an agreement in principle Sept. 29 that called for Marvel to pay the banks \$385 million and Marvel's Panini sticker business in settlement of its debt of more than \$800 million. That agreement unraveled Oct. 8, when Chase Manhattan representatives admitted they had been unable to persuade enough of the other 29 banks in the lending syndicate to fall in line.

One factor in the banks' withdrawal from the Marvel-Chase agreement may have been the appearance of an alternative plan proposed by Marvel's licensing partner Toy Biz. Under Toy Biz' plan, the banks would receive \$230 million in cash plus 40% of the equity in a company formed by a merger of Marvel and Toy Biz, thus reducing Marvel's cash payment while giving the banks a stake in Marvel's future profits.

Toy Biz stockholders, excluding Marvel, would be allowed to exchange their Toy Biz shares one-to-one for shares in the merged company, making them a major presence in the new company at the expense of current Marvel stockholders.

Several motions put on the table prior to Marvel's proposed settlement will once again come into play, if Marvel is unable to put together a durable settlement with the banks. The lender banks had requested the bankruptcy court to appoint a trustee to oversee Marvel's debt settlement and reorganization, a move that leading Marvel bondholder Carl Icahn strongly opposed. Icahn had moved that the court allow Icahn's High River Limited Partnership and Westgate International L.P. to take over the financing of Marvel Entertainment, a move resisted by the banks. A committee of Marvel Entertainment public shareholders had announced that it would support dismissal of Marvel's Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, if Marvel did not reach an agreement with its lenders that is in the interest of its shareholders.

In a statement issued Oct. 8 by Icahn's

PR firm, Sard Verbinen & Co., Marvel described its situation as "very unstable" and said that, without new financing, it may not be able to avoid piecemeal liquidation. Marvel said that its cash supply was at "a dangerously low level due, in no small part, to the demands and actions of the banks" and that it fears a loss of vendor, supplier, and employee support. Marvel said it was concerned about its ability to retain key personnel. The price of Marvel Entertainment shares fell 25¢ to \$2.25 a share Oct. 8, while Toy Biz shares rose 37.5¢ to \$9.125 a share on the New York Stock Exchange.

Marvel expressed skepticism regarding the proposal by Toy Biz, saying that Toy Biz had backed out of three prior merger agreements-in-principle. Marvel and Toy Biz do not even agree about the make-up of the Toy Biz board of directors. As part of Marvel's licensing agreement with Toy Biz, ne-

gotiated under Ronald Perelman's leadership, Marvel had appointed controlling membership in the Toy Biz board. That board disbanded when Perelman was forced out by Icahn and Marvel's bondholders. Subsequently, two conflicting boards were appointed: Arguing that Marvel's right to appoint members to the Toy Biz board was voided by Marvel's change in ownership, Toy Biz President Joseph Ahearn appointed new directors, while Icahn, asserting that the agreement was still in place, appointed his own set of directors.

Marvel and its lender banks are due to appear in court Oct. 24 for a hearing originally intended to ratify the agreement between Marvel and Chase Manhattan. Instead, the court may have to rule on several knots of disagreement among the many interested parties.

X-titles undergo creator shuffle

Harras: Possible Claremont return is under discussion

By Rob Allstetter

Marvel's X-Men comics are going through changes beginning this fall.

"In the next year, there will be new twists and interesting takes on the characters," said Marvel editor in chief Bob Harras.

Overseeing those new twists will be new creators, as *Uncanny X-Men*, *X-Men* and *Generation X* writer Scott Lobdell moves to new assignments, including *Fantastic Four*. New creative teams include Joe Kelly and Carlos Pacheco on *X-Men* and Steven Seagle and Chris Bachalo on *Uncanny X-Men*. Larry Hama takes over as writer of *Generation X*, with Mark Buckingham doing art on at least a limited basis.

Warren Ellis will write four issues of *Wolverine*.

Bachalo's first issue will actually be *Uncanny X-Men* #349, and then Joe Madureira finishes his run on the comic book with #350. Bachalo, co-creator and former artist of *Generation X*, then begins a regular run.

"It's definitely going to look a little different than *Generation X*," Bachalo said.

"It's definitely going to be geared toward super-heroes. It's the first time I've really tackled super-heroes. It will probably be closer to what I did in *X-Men Unlimited* #1.

"I'd really like to go back and explore the X-Men and what they were. I've been looking at a lot of Jim Lee work, Paul Smith work, Art Adams ... and looking at how they told stories. They were very exciting to me back then. I think I want to capture a little bit of that feeling, yet bring some of my personality into it, also."

Meanwhile, long-time *Uncanny X-Men* writer Chris Claremont might return to Marvel's mutant titles soon.

"Chris wants to come back in some capacity," Harras said. "We had lunch the other day to try to figure out how and when. It's still an ongoing discussion. He definitely wants to come back, and we definitely want him to do some work."

Harras also denied rumors that either *X-Factor* or *Excalibur* would be deleted from Marvel's lineup. "There are no cancellations planned," he said.

'Vixen's Keep' creator Mark Wallace dies

By Fred Patten

Mark Wallace, creator of the Mu Press graphic novel *Vixen's Keep*, died Sept. 12. He was best known for his anthropomorphic comics work and as a cartoonist for the Society for Creative Anachronism.

He became active in the SCA in Oklahoma in the late '70s and began drawing cartoons for his "shire" newsletter in 1980. These soon evolved into a regular comic strip, *The Kingdom of Warhaven*, a gently satirical look at SCA stereotypes and politics with a funny-animal cast led by Wallace's own anthropomorphized SCA persona, Lord William Blackfox. Wallace self-published three collections of these strips.

Wallace was active at SCA tournaments in Oklahoma and around the Midwest and was a contributor to several anthropomorphic fanzines and independent

comic books. In 1988, enlisting Lisa Woodworth as editor, C.A. Morgan as writer, and Margaret Carspecken as inker, Wallace began *Vixen's Keep*, a funny-animal medieval adventure. This was originally serialized in SCA newsletters simultaneously with *Warhaven* but was also published as a graphic novel in 1995. Wallace and Woodworth had just completed the plot for a *Vixen's Keep* sequel, and Wallace was laying out the first chapter at the time of his death.

He collapsed and died instantly as he was coming out of a gym after exercising. An aneurysm or stroke was the probable cause of death, according to the medical examiner.

During Wallace's funeral Sept. 21, there was a simultaneous three-hour online wake for Internet-active friends who could not attend in person.

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Comics NEWS



No punches are pulled, as the battle between Bloodshot and X-O Manowar concludes in *Bloodshot* #8 (32 pages, \$2.50), scheduled to ship in October. Bloodshot is determined to find out about his past and X-O is equally determined to prevent that from happening. Written by **Len Kaminski** and pencilled by **Sal Velluto**, the title was described by Acclaim as a major turning point in the life of Raymond Garrison.



The Warrior Nun universe gets its first super-team in *Redeemers* (24 pages, \$2.95), a five-issue mini-series scheduled to begin in December. The team includes an ex-nun, two Vietnam vets, a Buddhist monk, and a pseudo-demon princess in a story by writer **Herb Mallette** and artist **Patrick Blaine** that puts the heroes through hell, literally.



Originally scheduled to ship in November, Avatar's reteaming of *Faust* creators **David Quinn** and **Timothy Vigil** for 777: *The Wrath* has been rescheduled for March.

Avatar Press Editor-in-Chief **William**

A. Christensen said, "It is no exaggeration to say that David Quinn and Timothy Vigil are two of the most influential creators on the independent comics scene. Their collaborations, such as *Faust*, have helped to define what independent comics are and can be."

Written by Quinn and drawn by Vigil, the violent story of a tragic hero who stands with one foot in corruption and the other in the domain of angels contains graphic violence, substance abuse, and sexual situations and is not recommended for children.



The two Stupid Rat Creatures get their own back-up feature in *Bone* #31 (32 pages, \$2.95) scheduled to ship in January. Written by **Tom Sniegoski** and drawn by **Stan Sakai**, the five-part



back-up story also introduces a new character called Riblet. This is the first time the title has carried a back-up feature, and Cartoon Books said the story will not be collected in the *Bone* compilations.

Meanwhile, in the main feature, "Rock Jaw: Master of the Eastern Border" nears its conclusion, as Fone Bone and Smiley are about to be sacrificed to the Rat Creatures, the village is destroyed, and Thorn is reunited with an old friend.



A three-issue mini-series scheduled to begin in October pits Predator against Judge Dredd. Judges in Mega-City Dredd. Judges in Mega-City Dredd. Judges in Mega-City Dredd. One are being tracked down and killed by a Predator in the story by *Dredd* writer **John Wagner** and artist **Enrique Alcatena**. Editor **Philip Amara** said, "Judge Dredd is just one of those characters that seems tailor-made for a crossover with the Predator. It's great to work with Dredd co-creator John Wagner again, and Dredd mainstay artist **Brian Bolland** has provided the first cover to launch the series: the Predator in Dredd's uniform — Judge Predd."

Predator vs. Judge Dredd (32 pages, \$2.50) is co-published by Egmont Fleetway Ltd., which will present it in the UK in *Judge Dredd Megazine*.

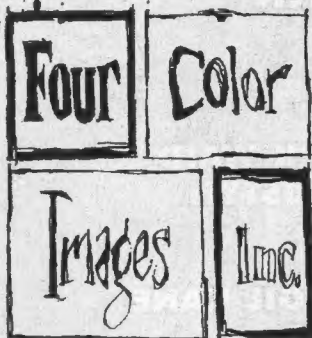


The Big Book of Scandal (192 pages, \$14.95) is scheduled to deliver a large helping of gossip in November. Writer **Jonathan Vankin**

teams with various artists, including **Walt Simonson**, **J.H. Williams III**, **John Ce-bollero**, **Eric Shanower**, **Joe Sacco**, and **Sergio Aragonés**, to dish about such scandal-prone personalities as Hollywood Madam **Heidi Fleiss**, **Michael Jackson**, **O.J. Simpson**, **Jim** and **Tammy Faye Bakker**, **Jimmy Swaggart**, **Woody** and **Mia**, and **Charlie Chaplin**.



Halloween is the busiest day of the year for attorneys **Alanna Wolff** and **Jeff Byrd**. The October-shipping *Wolff & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre* #17 (24 pages, \$2.50) features three self-contained stories, as the two barristers deal with clients who happen to be vampires, hunchbacks, and walking dead.



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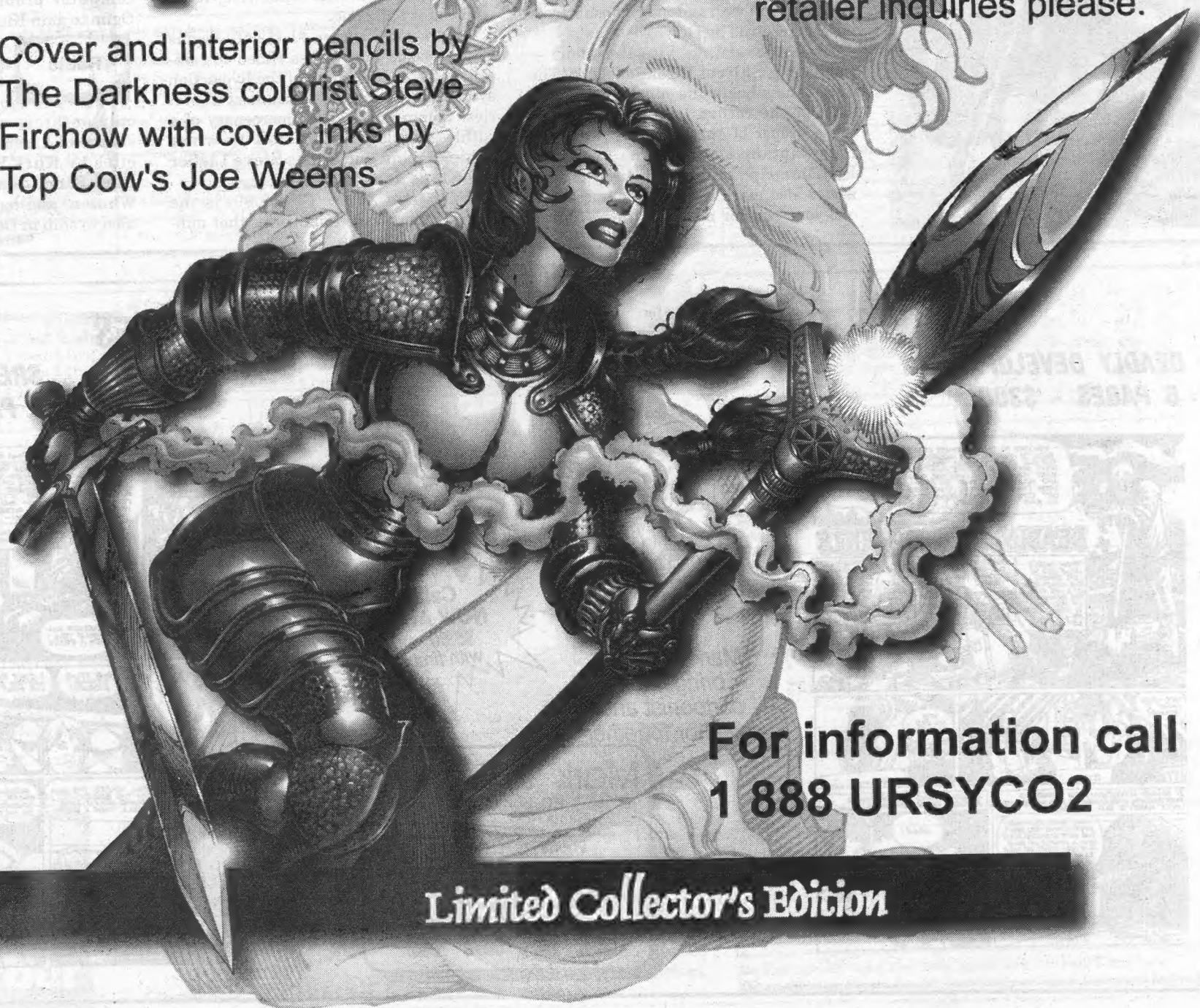
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Limited Collector's Edition

Comics NEWS

H Pantha is caught in a game of cat and mouse with a pack of hate-crazed werewolves in a two-issue mini-series written by **Mark Millar** and **John Smith** and painted by **Mark Texeira**. Scheduled to begin in December, the title is priced at \$3.50.



Limelight

The second issue of *Legion Anthology* (32 pages, \$2.95), a collection of manga-style stories, is scheduled to ship in November from Limelight Publishing. The anthology features science-fiction, sword-and-sorcery, superhero, and humorous stories done in the manga style by both American and Japanese artists.



• Marvel is promoting the conclusion of its Heroes Reborn titles with a contest in the 13th and last issue of the Heroes Reborn run of *Captain America*, *The Avengers*, *Iron Man*, and *Fantastic Four*. The Lucky 13 contest is designed to counter the negative connotations of the number 13 by handing out \$113 shopping sprees to 13 winners. Each contestant is asked to provide the name of the contestant's favorite comics retailer and answer 13 questions regarding characters and events in Heroes Reborn. Winners will be randomly chosen from entries received by Oct. 31.

Marvel Executive Vice President — Publishing **Shirrel Rhoades** said, "The 13th issues begin the much-anticipated saga of the return to the Marvel universe proper of our legendary super-heroes Captain America, The Avengers, Iron Man, and Fantastic Four. The 13th issues also mark the end of a successful one-year run for all four titles — all of

which experienced increased sales during Heroes Reborn."

• Several Marvel titles are scheduled to launch or relaunch with #1 issues in October.

Strange Tales #1 (32 pages, \$2.99) begins a new look at Marvel's old supernatural series by re-introducing Man-Thing. Writer **J.M. DeMatteis** and artist **Liam Sharp** take on Man-Thing in a story that puts the swamp creature at the center of a cosmic disaster, as the Nexus of All Realities threatens to collapse following the events of Onslaught and Heroes Reborn. The title is non-Code-approved and not intended for children.

Spider-Man Manga #1 (48 pages, \$3.99) is the first of a planned series of translations of manga versions of Marvel characters that have been running in Japan. Peter Parker becomes Yu Komori in these black-and-white stories by **Ryochi Ikegami**. The protagonist shares an origin and some villains with the American Spider-Man but, otherwise, it's a whole new ballgame.

Conan the Usurper #1 (\$2.50) begins a three-issue mini-series timed to coincide with the launching of the live-action syndicated *Conan the Adventurer* TV series. Conan is the hired mercenary of a ruthless warlord in this story by writer **Chuck Dixon** and artists **Steve Lieber** and **Klaus Janson**.

Unlimited Access #1 (\$2.99) is the first of a four-issue mini-series that min-

gles different eras as well as the DC and Marvel universes. Among the resulting clashes: Spider-Man and Wonder Woman vs. Juggernaut and the New God Mantis; The Hal Jordan Green Lantern vs. the savage Hulk; and a showdown between Jonah Hex and the Two-Gun Kid. The mini-series is written by **Karl Kesel** and drawn by **Pat Oliffe** and **Al Williamson**.

Wolverine: Days of Future Past #1 (32 pages \$2.50) begins a three-issue mini-series that presents another chapter in the future history of the X-Men. This prequel to *Days of Future Past* by writer **John Francis Moore** and artists **Joe Bennett** and **Jon Holdredge** finds the X-Men in a post-apocalyptic America operating as a hunted group of freedom-fighters led by Jubilation Lee.

Kitty Pryde: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. #1 (32 pages, \$2.50) is the first issue of a three-part mini-series by writer **Larry Hama** and artists **Jesus Redondo** and **Sergio Melia**, in which S.H.I.E.L.D. computer problems lead to a plot by Ogun to gain Kitty Pryde's soul.

Radio

Issue #27 of *Genus* (32 pages, \$2.95), Radio's black-and-white, adults-only anthropomorphics title, features stories of harem girls and sexy skunkettes by **Kurt Wilcken**, **Fred Perry**, **Paul Kidd**, **James Hardiman**, **Chris Whalen**, and more. The issue is scheduled to ship in December.

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725M2	7 1/4 x 10 3/4	Standard Comics	11	36	145		64
775M2	7 3/4 x 10 3/4	Silver/Gold Comics	11	37	146		68
800M2	8 x 11 1/2	Gold Age Comics	12	40	168		72
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775M	7 3/4 x 10 3/4	Silver/Gold Comics	18	76	122	/1000	105
800M	8 x 11 1/2	Gold Age Comics	19	77	123	/1000	110
825M	8 1/4 x 11 1/2	Super Gold Age Comics	19	78	124	/1000	115

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			10	50	200	1000	
700MY	7 x 10 3/4	Current Comics	\$5.50	\$17	\$56	\$224	\$100
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775MY	7 3/4 x 10 3/4	Silver/Gold Comics	6.25	19	63	250	110
800MY	8 x 11 1/2	Gold Age Comics	6.50	20	66	264	115
825MY	8 1/4 x 11 1/2	Super Gold Age Comics	7.25	22	73	290	120
875MY	8 3/4 x 11 1/2	Large Comics, Mags & Letter	7.50	23	75	298	130

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800T	8 x 11 1/2	Gold Age Comics	8	24	77	309	
825T	8 1/4 x 11 1/2	Super Gold Age Comics	8.50	26	86	346	
875T	8 3/4 x 11 1/2	Large Comics, Mags & Letter	9	28	91	363	
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800SHL	8 x 11 1/2	Gold Age Comics	9	26	86	343	
825SHL	8 1/4 x 11 1/2	Super Gold Age Comics	9.50	29	95	380	
875SHL	8 3/4 x 11 1/2	Large Comics, Mags & Letter	10.50	31	102	410	

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775BT	7 3/4 x 10 3/4	Silver/Gold Comics	5.50	17	55	218	
800BT	8 x 11 1/2	Gold Age Comics	6	18	58	231	
825BT	8 1/4 x 11 1/2	Super Gold Age Comics	6.25	19	61	240	
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758LVS	7 3/4 x 10 3/4	Gold Age Comics	10	71
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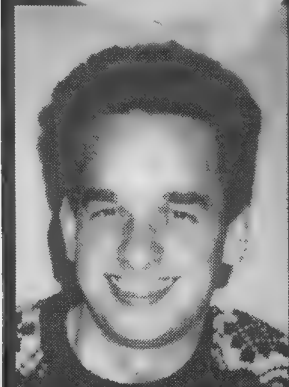
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words to the wise...



MARK CRILLEY

Mark Crilley currently lives in Southfield, Mich. His first published work, *Akiko on the Planet Smoo*, was nominated for an Eisner (Best Comic Book for Younger Readers) as well as the Russ Manning Award in 1996. The *Akiko* series was nominated for four Eisners, including Best Continuing Series, in 1997.

Comics Buyer's Guide turns over the keyboard to the industry!

Want to make a difference in comics? Write a letter!

I got a letter not so long ago from a 6-year-old girl telling me what she thought of my comic book, *Akiko*. In those wonderful, wiggly lower-case letters that only kids can scrawl, she paid me one of the greatest compliments I've received since getting into this crazy business:

"I love *Akiko* because her adventures make me be in the story."

I wonder if she had any idea what a big difference her letter made. Probably not. Kids don't think about that kind of stuff. But reading letters like hers is an indispensable part of my work week, and without them I would probably cease to produce any work whatsoever. Because if there is one nagging doubt that haunts comic-book creators across the globe, it's this: the fear that no one out there is "getting" the comic book.

Writing and illustrating are largely solitary occupations. That's nothing new. And the isolation of authors and artists everywhere has probably been relieved by correspondence since

long before the comic book came into existence. But the serialized nature of the comics industry gives readers a unique opportunity to affect the outcome of a piece of work as it is being made.

I'll give you a specific example. Shortly after the third issue

30-issue" adventure story became a more manageable 18 issues after letters began to pile up criticizing the sprawling length of the tale and the strange sensation that an honest-to-goodness ending was nowhere in sight. As it turns out, they were right. The

calm reflection) that you have a valid point.

There are, of course, creators who pride themselves on pursuing their own goals regardless of what the readers think. But I suspect that feedback from readers has at least some effect on creators of all stripes, even those who claim they listen to no one but their inner muse and the ghost of Jack Kerouac.

The whole thrill of comics for me is the interaction between the people who make them and the people who read them. And I'm not talking about going to a convention and standing in line to get an autograph. You'll be lucky if you have any meaningful contact with a creator in that kind of situation.

If you really want to get your favorite writer or artist's attention, invest a 32¢ stamp (or else point and click some feedback to them via e-mail). Chances are your words, whether they criticize or commend, will be the vital evidence that creator needs that someone is, indeed, "getting" the comic book.

"Constructive criticism, even the brutish variety, never gets ignored."

of *Akiko* hit the stands, I got a letter that contained the following comment:

I picked up issue #2 of *Akiko* and it was excellent. I only have one itsy-bitsy complaint. I would ask for a story summary (like on the inside front cover), but since it's only issue #2, I'll let that slide.

Well I didn't let it slide. By the fifth issue, a short plot summary was a permanent feature of the comic book. And that was solely because of that one letter.

The effects of fan feedback don't stop at the inside front cover, either. My proposed "20- or

story was getting too long, and thank goodness they stood up and told me instead of just 'ulp!' dropping the series from their "buy" list.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that I change what I'm doing depending on what happens to be in the mailbox that day. But constructive criticism, even the brutish variety, never gets ignored. If there's something your favorite comics creator is doing that you think could be improved, you might be surprised how far your input could go, especially if the creator finds (after

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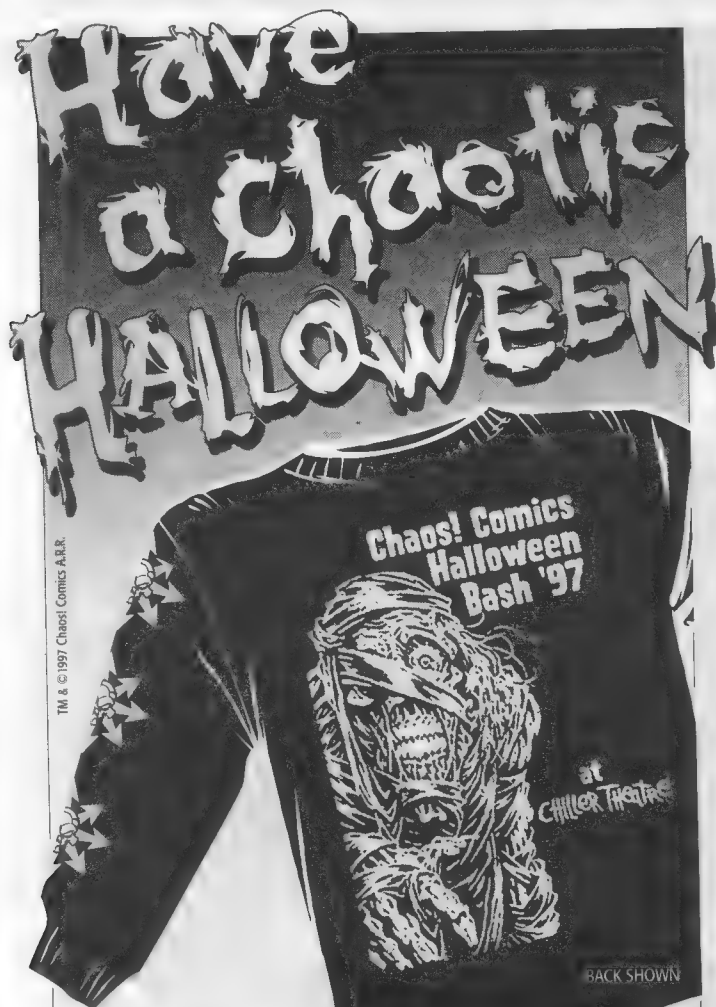
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MD: News Editor Michael Dean

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Trina Robbins

Board Member, Friends of Lulu

1982 15th St.

San Francisco, CA 94114

The question was "Whatever happened to comics for girls?" and I believe that, in my article, I answered that. Laurel Carpenter thinks I shouldn't be wasting time writing comics history but, instead, should cut to the chase and write about today's comics.

I am a comics historian and, due to the fact that nobody else (except cat yronwode) has cared enough to research or write about the subject, my field of expertise is comics by and for women and girls. Because of my writing, I like to hope that at least some people now have an answer to the oft-heard statement, "Girls don't read comics." That answer is, of course, "Girls *did* read comics, when there were comics for them to read, and they will read them again, given the kind of comics they like."

Carpenter also objects to the fact that I didn't mention Friends of Lulu. That wasn't what my article was about. When it's pertinent, I push Friends of Lulu as much as the next member. My next book, which I'm working on now, is a history of girls' comics (out, I hope, in Spring '99), in which I'll start with the teen comics of the 1940s and end with today's "grrlzines," and I would not dream of leaving out Friends of Lulu.

I'm also happy to report that I've just been notified that one of next year's themes at the San Diego convention will be Comics for Girls and Boys, a theme I suggested to them. This is our opportunity to write about, draw, and publicize all comics for kids of both sexes, from *Millie the Model* to *Leave It to Chance*.

Finally, the best way to get an article about *Akiko*, *X-Men*, *Wolff & Byrd*, *Books of Magic*, *Star Trek*, or *Leave It to Chance* in *CBG* is to write one.

Randy Crawford

Atom Graphics

Box 255

Minden, WV 25879

I would like to request the assistance of *Comics Buyer's Guide* readers in helping me locate the current addresses of two artists, Adam DeKraker and Scott McClung.

Both artists collaborated with me on two separate super-hero projects in late 1993 and early 1994, before my day job brought the project to a halt.

The project has been completed by me and will soon be published as a regular-size comic book titled *Captain Neutron*. If the comic book is successful, Scott and Adam may have additional payment coming to them for their efforts on the comic book. Attempts to contact them at their old addresses in my files have been unsuccessful, since both have

apparently moved. Anyone who knows Scott or Adam — or if they read this — please have them contact me at the above address.

Scott Milstein, D.O.

450 Rt. 22

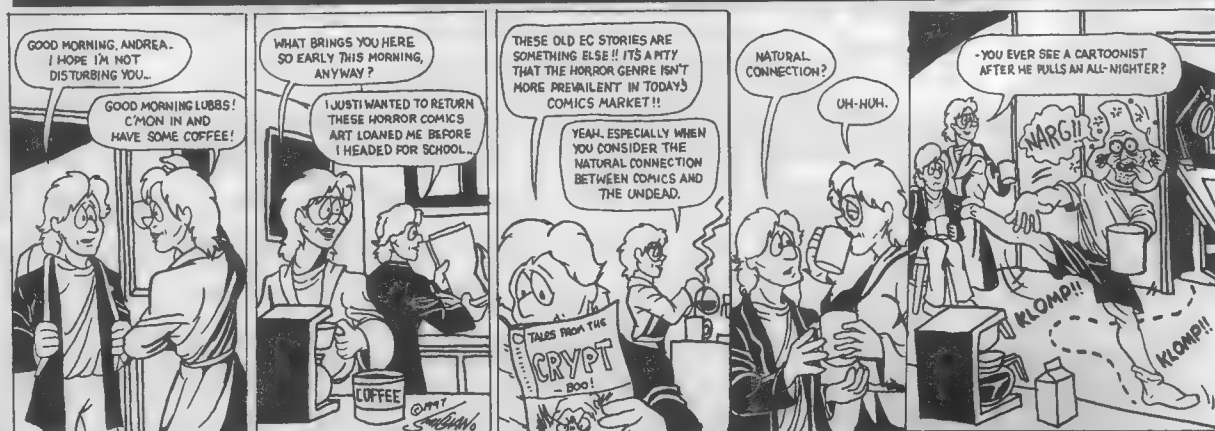
Delmont, PA 15626

This would be considered my first letter to the gang at *CBG*. I thought I would take the opportunity to thank everyone involved for providing a wonderful periodical on the world of comics. Being a collector and reader of comics for the last 25 years, I felt compelled to write a letter of thanks to those people who are integral in assisting me to further enjoy my hobby. I very much look forward to my copy of *CBG* each week and, when it doesn't arrive on time, I feel a little let down. There have been times when issues get "lost in the mail," but the Krause customer service reps quickly sent out replacement copies. Thanks!

This note is not intended to point out those features of *CBG* that I enjoy more than others, nor is it to be a forum for "what my favorite comics titles are." I feel that there is a lack of appreciation of the comics industry as a whole for doing what they do to allow non-comics professionals an avenue for enjoyment.

I am a family physician who spends
(Continues on Page 16)

For Art's Sake



By Chris Smigiliano

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DAVID DAVDEZ

Oh, So?

From
Page
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each and every day attempting to help sick people cope with their chronic diseases or recover from their acute illnesses. As much as I enjoy my career, I equally enjoy the time afforded me to spend with my family and, separately, pursue my hobby. The approximately 100 titles per month that I actually read keep me lighthearted and allow me to enjoy my job even more. I hope this will never change. The comics are quite light reading, when compared to the texts and medical journals I peruse quite frequently.

Once again, this note is intended as a general "job well done" and a pat on the back for an industry which has persevered through its recent hard times. I look forward to another 25 years of reading enjoyment and hope that new readers will emerge in large quantities. Thanks again.

Mark Gordon

1983 Oakwell Farms Parkway
San Antonio, TX 78218

There have been several letters in the recent past detailing the pros and cons of situating specific adult-oriented booths in designated areas of major comic conventions.

I attended the San Diego con this past July for the first time. Being "green" to a major convention, I wandered about the arena for several hours until I encountered the Verotik booth. Wow! Here I was, standing in front of a 27" television screen showcasing the upcoming *Manga Verotik* animated movie. I don't remember if it was *Satanika* or *Verotika*, but it was pretty explicit. Watching female "demons" performing fellatio on giant Satan-looking horned demons was a little more than what I wanted to see on a Saturday morning.

The television was facing the main aisle where everyone within radius of the booth could see the video. I didn't notice any young people watching this, but I feel the people at Verotik could have been more responsible by not having the screen facing the public. I watched the video and have to say this should be one intense movie. Just for a minute, as several adults were standing in front of this television in silence, I felt extremely uncomfortable — to the point of walking away before the trailer ended.

On a more positive note, thanks, Maggie, and the rest of youse guys for bringing a great publication to my home every week. At the office (hey, Sean and Roger), there are several of us who anxiously await the next issue. The question each week is, "Did you get your *CBG*?" or, instead of good morning, just "*CBG*?"

[There's an image for you. Suddenly the picture comes to mind of offices across the country, filled with workers discussing the latest *CBG* at the water cooler. What a great stereotype that would be. So what did you folks say about #1249?]

Chris Juricich

1808 Chestnut St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

I won't bore you with the mantra of anyone, collector or not, who bemoans no longer having

all those skyrocketing-in-value Silver Age comics, being a claim to the effect of having once possessed many of them. Well, I did, and, yes, I sold them, and if I'd waited another dozen years I'd have made out much better.

But stick to reprints, folks! The paper quality is better, they're more readable, and, above all, they're cheaper. How can you beat that? We're fortunate that the quality of the comics from the '60s seems better than those of the following decade, but their legibility and other qualities are hardly an incentive for taking out a second mortgage on the house for a single comic book, as Cliff Biggers suggests.

We have Marvel's *Masterworks*, DC's *Archive* editions, and numerous other reprints. Look to the DC 100 Page Super-Spectaculars or the *Marvel Tales* comics: much cheaper. Learn to be content with representative elements of the comics from way back then. I had a nearly complete run of *Mystery in Space* and *Strange Adventures* at one time. Now what do I have? *From beyond the Unknown*, that 25-issue reprint series.

And another thing: How often do we actually look at all those comics we covet for years, anyway? With a collection of 10,000 issues, how can you possibly enjoy all of them? They entertained once. Move on to the next.

By the way, this week when the Tangent titles shipped, I took a protracted look at them. I'll admit that, since attending DC's San Diego con panel promotion of the issues of this upcoming "new universe" last July, I'd been looking forward to them. My excitement was partly founded on the relief that they were one-shots: no financial shock of six cool, new comics to keep up on for months to come.

And you know? Every last one has been marvelous (so to speak)! Fun, well-written, generally well-illustrated, with singularly handsome covers. My biggest obstacle was dollars — nine books at \$2.95 a pop plus California sales tax put them at a whopping \$28.74. Quite a lot of cashola, DC. Still, I was excited about the comics and was glad to have trusted my intuition on buying them.

The implications of Tangent, still, are a bit scary, especially when realizing that, come December, we'll be treated to a revamped Superman Red/Superman Blue. It almost seems that the Pandora's Box of pre-Crisis story elements involving parallel Earths is being adopted again. It's as though DC paid off its credit-card debt totally in 1986 with *Crisis* but has spent the past decade adding more debt as it incorporates more of the past with the present storylines. Any pre-Crisis concept you can think of has been reintroduced with either a new technical gimmick to explain it (Kandor, for example) or a gender switch (where could I possibly begin?). Still, the core element of multiple Earths being reintroduced has been avoided — till now. Could a pre-crisis Superman or Batman soon co-exist with the new-powered Superman or "darker" Batman? "Classic" Superman and "New" Superman. Tangent implies such a possibility, don't you think?

It's a titillating concept, admittedly, which for me makes the Tangent "universe" (or should we simply call it Earth-T?) much more exciting. The frightening part (OK, in my dreams, I know, cynic that I am) comes if Tangent is successful. It's so good — and who could afford another title

(Continues on Page 18)

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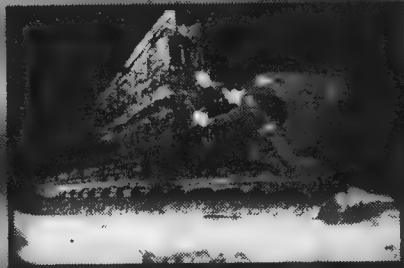
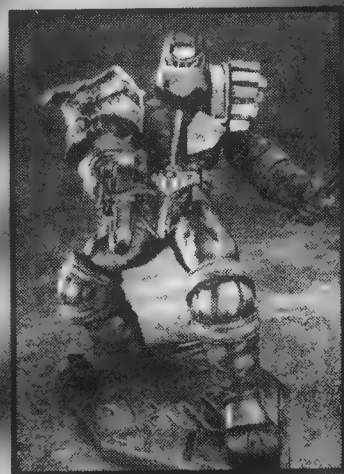
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Oh, So?

From
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or more each month?

Tangent really opens a lot of possibilities. It allows for all the pre-Crisis comics to have their own universe or Earth. What a thought! In the '60s we had Earths 1, 2, 3, Prime, and whatever else, all separated by that little vibrational barrier. So you'd have the post-Crisis universe which has been tailored and engineered more carefully for continuity's sake, the pre-Crisis universe which was a bonsai gone crazy, like kudzu, and now a Tangent universe. All could exist, then. And — guess what — what goes around comes around, and it would be like having the best of all worlds. Of course, DC would have to publish a heckuva lot more titles to keep up with past and present.

I'd be broke long before then, and divorced, if I somehow tried to keep up with such a fantasy. That fantasy, naturally, would assume, as well, that all the titles were priced at only 50¢ apiece and were selling to everybody as they did in the '60s. Might as well throw in my winning the lottery, while I'm at it.

[DC seems to have accommodated itself nicely to a variety of universes at this point — evolved there in some cases by the fact of public perceptions of the number of incarnations of a number of its characters. Is Batman the Batman of the '40s series? Well, probably not; those — and, to many, even the '40s comics — are considered curiosities today. But the '60s TV show is the Batman in many minds. And the '90s animated series is the Batman to many young viewers today. And the movie. And — Well, that's how you get multiple universes.]

And Tangent continues to resonate the way Showcase #4 resonated decades ago. Some bumpy rides can be exhilarating fun — and the roller coaster may have left the boarding platform.]

Prentice Hammond
98 Myrtle St.
Lowell, MA 01850

CBG issue #1247, page 41 mystery. Looks like Fred H. is at it again.

[Very good! How'd you like #1249?]

Charles Pavlack
1522 Froesel Dr.
Ellisville, MO 63011

Having fallen behind on my *CBG* reading, I am tearing through back issues and just discovered your e-mail address. How wonderful!

I intend to be a regular correspondent now; I'm too lazy to stuff an envelope and lick a stamp, but I practically live on the computer, both at work and home, so I have no problem with zipping off e-mail at the drop of a hat.

One question which I saw at the end of a letter but which remained unanswered:

Whatever happened to *Bumpkin Buzz*? Brian Douglas Ahern's page was long my favorite feature in *CBG*.

I remember him writing a couple of text pages, then didn't see anything until a few issues ago, but my hopes that he'd returned for good seemed dashed when I failed to see anything else.

Inquiring minds want to know!

[We think — and hope — Briz is doing quite well these days, and we have nothing on hand from him at this point.]

Daniel Louie

P.O. Box 39
Nashua, NH 03061

Mark Evanier shared his Steve Allen story with *CBG*'s readers in #1245, so I thought I would share the following, somewhat similar, incident, although I'm not the wordsmith he is. This happened at the old Sheraton hotel (in New York City, across from Madison Square Garden and Penn Station — I don't know what the hotel is called these days; it seems to change names every five years or so).

It was probably at a Seuling or Creation Con, probably in the early '70s. While walking around the convention, I discovered Wally Wood sitting at a table. (I think he was sharing it with Wendy Pini.) Here was this great artist whose work I admired from comics like *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*, *M.A.R.S. Patrol/Total War*, *Cannon*, *Sally Forth*, *Witzend*, and myriad other titles, and he was all alone, with no line of fans before him.

It would have been a great opportunity for me to say hello and tell him how much I liked his work, but I just couldn't get up the courage to walk up to him and say something. I guess I was afraid of being tongue-tied or not saying anything meaningful to one of the comic-book "gods." When he died in 1981, I was really sorry that I hadn't thanked him for all of the wonderful hours his art (and stories) had entertained me.

Even today, I still can't get up the courage to talk to comic-book creators. I've seen Julie Schwartz at a number of WorldCons and should thank him for creating the Silver Age of comics. (I still have my well-worn copies of *GL* #2 and *JLA* #1.) Do comics creators really want to hear from middle-aged (I'll be 50 at the end of next year) fanboys? If they do, what do they want to hear?

In the meantime, since it is easier (for me) to type it than say it, I would like to thank the following artists who brought me many hours of fun during my school years:

Jim Mooney, who will always be the Supergirl artist for me (and thank you, Claypool, for using this fine artist), as well as the artist on Tommy Tomorrow and Dial H for Hero.

Jim Steranko, especially for his Nick Fury/S.H.I.E.L.D. stories, but also for his brief stay on *X-Men*.

Neal Adams, for his *X-Men* stories, as well as his *Brave and the Bold* team-ups and all those DC covers.

Steve Ditko, for his Doctor Strange, The Creeper, Hawk and Dove, Mr. A, The Question, Captain Atom, the Blue Beetle, and, of course, Spider-Man.

Gene Colan, especially for his Iron Man, but also for his versions of DD, Doctor Strange, and Namor.

Joe Kubert for the Silver Age Hawkman and, of course, Sgt. Rock and Easy Company and other DC war stories;

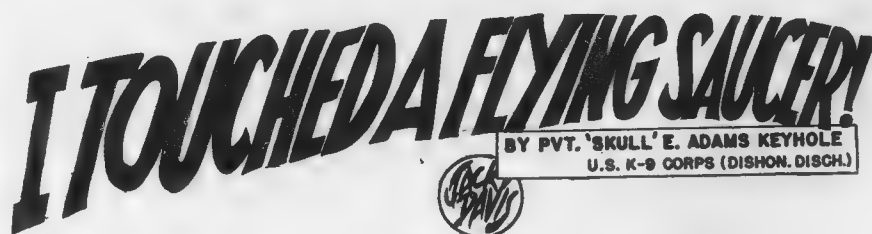
Russ Heath, the Sea Devils and Haunted Tank artist, as well as being the "other" Sgt. Rock artist, whom I didn't really start to appreciate.

(Continues on Page 20)



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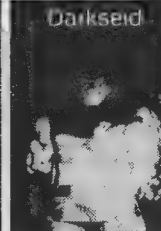
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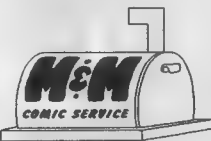
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Oh, So?

**From
Page
18**

ciate until I saw his art in black and white in the Warren magazines.

(Time for a break. This letter is too long already. I'll be back in a few weeks with some more artists I would like to publicly thank for many childhood pleasures.)

Marc A. Baker

1734 Provincial
South Bend, IN 46614

I'm tired of Tony Isabella's rantings against The Citizens for the Protection of Children (CPC). I am in total agreement with him but I'm tired of it. I want to read about comic books. I want to know what he thinks about W.M. Loeb's new series *Bliss Alley* — or it would be nice to hear a story about whatever happened to Gerry Conway. Something like that.

I'm not going to blame Isabella for this, though. I blame the CPC in all its various incarnations. I will try to condense Tony's multi-part epic into one paragraph. Or, more precisely, I'll condense it into one sentence and then expound with a short anecdote. It's all about money.

I recently made a night trip from Toledo to South Bend. Flipping around the dial, I found a lively discussion about the evils of Disney. I'm sorry I don't remember the names of those speaking, but I certainly remember the points raised. The speakers were endorsing the Christian Coalition's trade embargo against Disney. And, to support this, they spoke of the blatant display of pantheism shown in *Pocahontas* and the vile mischaracterization of the church in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Then they turned their barbs toward the Disney-owned ABC show *Ellen*. Enough has been documented of the Coalition's views on this matter that I don't need to expound further.

Here's the kicker: At the end of the broadcast they made the usual plea for donations to fight against this dreaded scourge and then they gave a number to call for their catalog of Coalition-approved children's merchandise. Draw your own conclusions, but in one man's opinion, it's all about money.

I look forward to seeing Isabella's next non-CPC article. Maybe something about a small-press digest he received called *Cry Freedom*. That would be cool.

[How intriguing. Our field doesn't often perceive that aspect of the opposition to some children's entertainment — but I recall a **700-Club** attack on comics that culminated in a similar appeal to buy specific product for kids.]

Dave Blaszkiewicz

28 Lafayette NE #5

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Tony Isabella's 300th *Tony's Tips* column prompted me to relate a story: My friend Chris and I caught up with Tony at the 1995 Chicago Comicon. Chris wanted his *Black Lightning* #5 signed and was stunned to realize he had accidentally left it at home. Before we could run off to buy a copy, Tony dug into his portfolio (which he was showing to publishers) and produced *Black Lightning* issues #1 and #5. He signed them both and gave the comics to us. Not only is

Tony a gifted writer, he is committed to comics and accessible to his fans. That's refreshing.

Joseph J. Bennett

11300 Fairway Dr.

Laurinburg, NC 28352

First, I want to provide you with feedback on the theme issues you have published lately. I particularly enjoyed the *Star Trek* in comics and the TV sitcom comics issues. Theme issues are a great idea, and I would like to see more in the future. Theme issues may also be a way to draw more non-comics people into our hobby. I know you are always looking for feedback on how to make *CBG* better, and I believe theme issues are a way of making an occasional issue more than just the routine comics news. Some ideas for future theme issues that I think would interest many comics and non comics collectors:

Edgar Rice Burroughs novels in comics (probably focusing on characters other than Tarzan), science-fiction movie comics, horror movie comics.

I did get a chance to get to the Charlotte, N.C., Heroes Convention this summer. My son and I had a great time, and it was a real pleasure meeting you and your fine crew at the **CBG** booth. After I told you how much I enjoyed **CBG**, I was surprised by your question to me on how the publication could be better; this prompted me to write this letter to tell you how much I enjoyed your theme issues. It's nice to know that the customers' opinions are important.

We were at the **CBG** booth for quite a while, waiting to get Peter David's autograph. My son is not a big comics fan, but he is a big fan of David's *Star Trek* novels. He had a few paperback books for autographs. David seemed surprised about this; I suppose he primarily expects to see only comics at shows like this. I know it sounds a cliché, but, when we told David that his *Star Trek* novels were the best-written, he appeared to be genuinely surprised by the compliment. His novels truly capture the spirit of the *Trek* TV series, and I cannot believe he's never been told this before. I find it refreshing to find someone in the entertainment industry who is still humble and has not let fame go to his head. Meeting Peter David and hearing him speak at panel discussions was a highlight of our visit. The day was well worth the two-hour drive from our rural community.

[I, too, have noticed — as I stand at the table when Peter is signing — that he is often surprised when people point out something he has done that they especially liked.]

Writers and artists — and many other creators — often do their creating isolated from feedback from any of their intended audience. Even creators whose work is sometimes experienced more publicly seldom get focused feedback. (I remember asking Paul Dini as we stood at the side of a room packed with fans rocking with laughter at a line in **Batman Adventures** before the series began: “Is this the first time you’ve seen this with audience reaction?” He smiled broadly and nodded.)

I think a lot of creators get used to people saying, "I like your work," and don't get me wrong: They love hearing it. But when people cite specifics and indicate informed knowledge in the course of their praise, it can take them unaware.

And, yes, Peter continues to be the same guy I've known since the days he was a "mere" fan.]

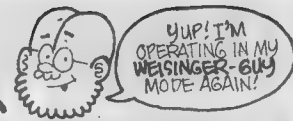
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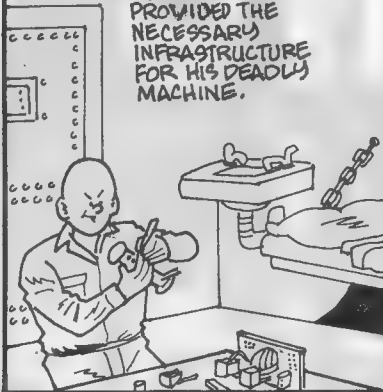
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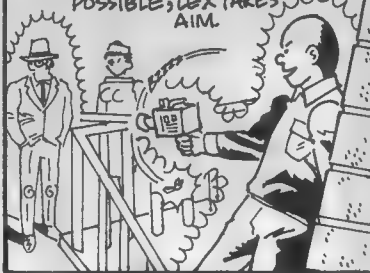
UNDER EDITOR MORT'S GUIDANCE, WAYNE BORING PROVIDED THE ART THE FIRST TIME AROUND FOR "THE REPORTER OF STEEL," ORIGINALLY FOUND IN ACTION COMICS #257, OCT 1959 (FROM THE ROTO NIGRO COLLECTION).

SITTING IN HIS PRISON CELL ONE FINE DAY, CRIMINAL GENIUS LEX LUTHOR DECIDES IT'S HIGH TIME TO TEST OUT THAT SUPER-RAY PROJECTOR HE CONCOCTED WITH THE SPECK OF ELEMENT XIUM... HE HAD HIDDEN IN A TOOTH FILLING--**ESPECIALLY** SINCE PARTS FROM THE RADIO THE WARDEN FOOLISHLY

ALLOWED HIM PROVIDED THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HIS DEADLY MACHINE.



LEX DOESN'T TEST IT ON HIMSELF THEN AND THERE, THOUGH. UH UH. AFRAID A MALFUNCTION MAY CAUSE DEATH, THE TOUGH GUY SCIENTIST GOES LOOKING FOR **ANOTHER** SUBJECT, USING THE ATOM TRANSMITTER HE ALSO HAD SECRETED IN HIS CELL (HOW? WHO KNOWS...) TO PROJECT A SOLID IMAGE OF HIMSELF TO HIS GANG'S HIDEOUT. WITH ALL HIS HENCHMEN BEHIND BARS, HE FINDS INSTEAD REPORTERS LOIS LANE AND CLARK KENT NOSING AROUND. FIGURING IF HE CAN MAKE KENT SUPER, **ANYTHING'S** POSSIBLE; LEX TAKES AIM.



IMBUING THE PLANET SCRIBE WITH A 3 DAY DOSE, LUTHOR PROMPTLY PUSHES A LARGE ROCK DOWN UPON KENT, WHICH PROCEEDS TO **SMASH** ON HIS STARTLED CRANIUM. CAUGHT FLATFOOTED BY LOIS, THE SHEEPISH REPORTER TAKES REFUGE IN LUTHOR'S SCHEME WHEN THE EARL MASTER-MIND SUDDENLY APPEARS TO GLOAT OF HIS PLANS TO GIVE HIMSELF A **LIFETIME DOSE**-- PROVIDING CLARK **SURVIVES** THE NEXT 72 HOURS, OF COURSE! THE **THINGS** A GUY HAS TO DO TO PRESERVE HIS DUAL IDENTITY!!



REALIZING LUTHOR'S INVENTION DOES INDEED WORK, HAVING SEEN THE EFFECTS ON AN INSECT THAT STUMBELED THROUGH THE RAY'S PATH (THE **ORIGINAL** SUPERFLY, YOU MIGHT SAY), KENT NONETHELESS **DOESN'T** SLIP AWAY FROM HIS COMPANION TO CONFRONT HIS ENEMY, BUT INSTEAD MOSES ON BACK TO LUTHOR'S CELL WITH LOIS AND THE WARDEN, BY WHICH TIME LEX HAS **CLEVERLY** HIDDEN ANY AND ALL EVIDENCE. HEY, CLARK-- HOW ABOUT THAT RADIO WITH THE ELEMENT XIUM TUNER?



ANOTHER TACK WILL BE NEEDED TO FOIL LUTHOR'S NEFARIOUS PLAN, AND WITH THE EXISTENCE OF SUPER KENT QUICKLY MADE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THANKS TO EDITOR PERRY WHITE GOING TO PRESS WITH AN EXTRA EDITION, CLARK ASSIGNS ONE OF HIS UBIQUITOUS SUPERMAN ROBOTS TO HANDLE HIS DUTIES WHILE HE PURSUES **ANOTHER** AGENDA.



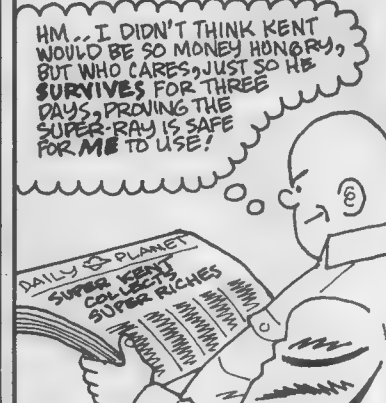
GIVING A SPECTACULAR, IF SOMEWHAT **GAUCHE**, DEMONSTRATION OF HIS (ALLEGEDLY) NEWFOUND POWERS, THE REPORTER OF STEEL PACKS 'EM IN BY THE THOUSANDS AT METROPOLIS STADIUM--**AT TEN BUCKS A POP!!** (AND THIS IS 1959, RE-MEMBER!)



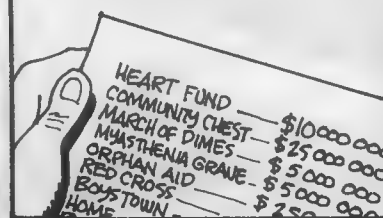
IN SHORT ORDER, KENT USES HIS LUTHOR GIVEN ABILITIES TO DISCOVER SUNKEN PIRATE GOLD, A MINE RICH IN SILVER, AND THOUSANDS OF VALUABLE PEARLS. PLUS, AFTER CAPTURING A GANG, HE DEMANDS THE REWARD, AND BOXES AN EXHIBITION WITH THE CHAMP FOR THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR PURSE. WHY, HE EVEN TRIES THE OLD COAL SQUEEZING TRICK! AS LOIS SUCCINCTLY PUTS IT:



DATING BACK TO AN ERA BEFORE PRISONERS HAD CABLE TV PIPED INTO THEIR CELLS, LUTHOR INSTEAD HAS TO RELY UPON HIS (COURTESY COPY OF THE DAILY) PLANET TO READ THE NEWS OF HIS GUINEA PIG'S ANTICS. HE'S BOTH SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED.

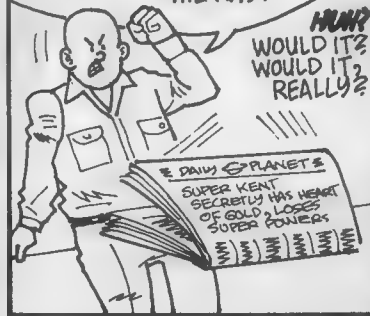


SO WHAT'S THE CATCH? WELL, GATHERING LOIS AND SOME OTHER FRIENDS IN HIS APARTMENT AT THE END OF THE THIRD DAY, HE SITS ADMIDST HIS OBSCENE, MCDUCK-LIKE AMMASSED WEALTH AND DECLARES THAT HE DOESN'T PLAN TO KEEP SO MUCH AS A **DIME**, INSTEAD DISTRIBUTING IT **ALL** TO A GROUP OF WORTHY CHARITIES, ALL INCLUDED ON A LIST HE HELPFULLY PASSES OUT.



AND JUST **HOW** DOES OUR BRILLIANT BAD GUY REACT WHEN THE NEWS IS PRINTED THE NEXT DAY?

BLAST IT, THE SUPER RAY HAD A BAD AFTER-EFFECT! IT MADE KENT SO GENEROUS IT COMPELLED HIM TO USE HIS SUPER POWERS TO GATHER MONEY FOR CHARITY! THE SAME THING WOULD HAPPEN TO **ME** IF I TOOK A DOSE OF THE RAY!



I MEAN, WOULDN'T THE FACT THAT CLARK KENT IS A DECENT, CIVIC MINDED INDIVIDUAL HAVE A **LITTLE** SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT? AND LUTHOR **ISN'T**? NEVER MIND. RATHER THAN RISK THE ILLOGICAL COMPUSSION TO BECOME SUPER ALTRUISTIC, LUTHOR DESTROYS HIS DEVICE. ONCE AGAIN, CLARK'S ABILITY OF SUPER-CONVOLUTION WORKS AS PLANNED. SOMEHOW, IT **ALWAYS** DOES.



BACK IN HIS STANDARD WORK CLOTHES, THE BIG BLUE BOY SCOUT RESUMES HIS PATROL OF METROPOLIS--HIS **FREE** PATROL OF METROPOLIS.

AS FOR LUTHOR, WELL LATELY HE'S TAKEN TO COMPLAINING TO THE WARDEN ABOUT THE AWFUL HEAT, AND THE WARDEN HAS PROMISED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A FAN SHORTLY--



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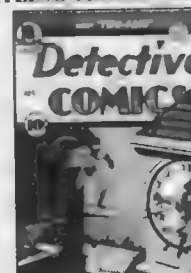
BATMAN #1



GREEN LANTERN #1



STARTLING TERROR TALES #11



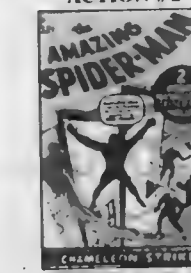
DETECTIVE COMICS #66



REAL LIFE #3



ACTION #2



SPIDER-MAN #1



ACTION COMICS #1



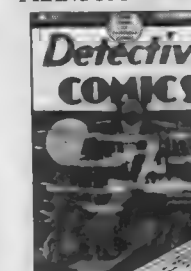
CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS #1



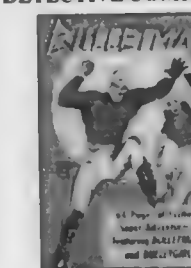
ALL AMERICAN COMICS #16



PHANTOM LADY #17



DETECTIVE COMICS #31



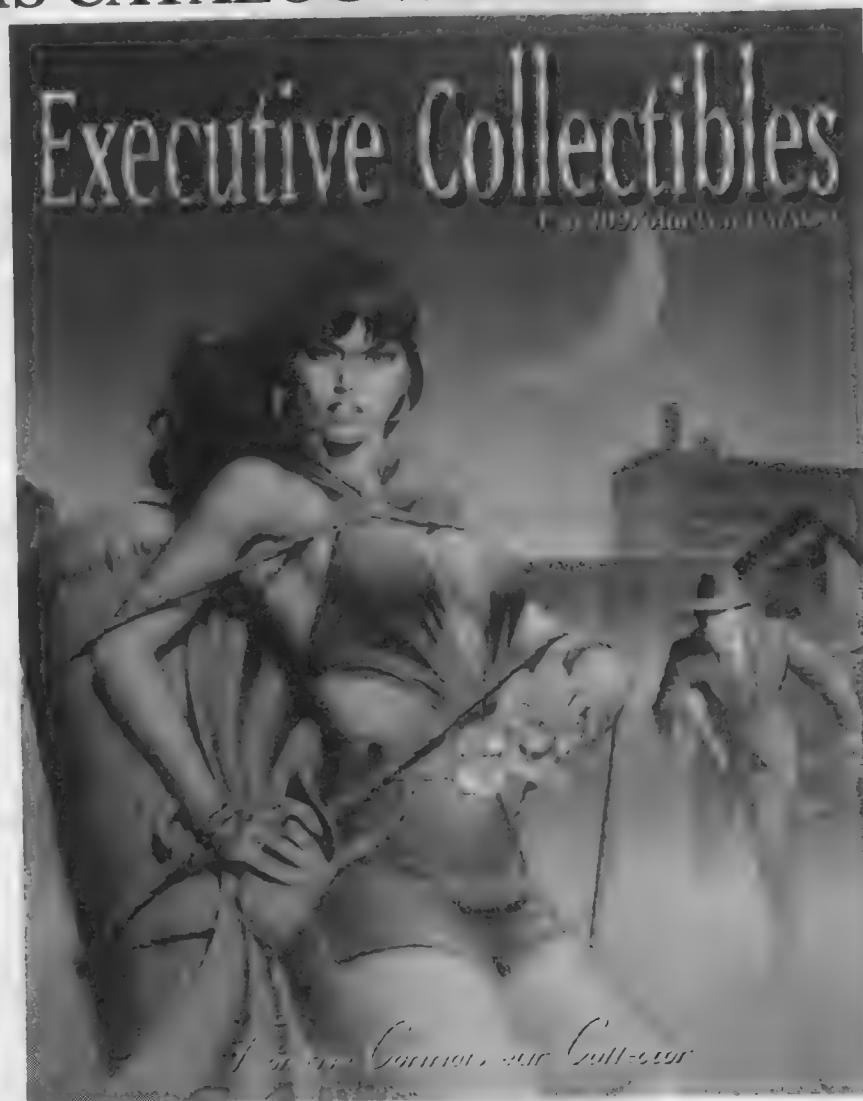
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DETECTIVE COMICS #27

the HALLOWEEN T-SHELF

An occasional
guide to all
things
spooky!

Black Mass o' Media

Eerie, Indiana, the TV series about a boy whose parents move to a very strange community, failed to click with viewers when it ran in prime time on NBC from 1991 to 1992, but its revival on the Fox Kids network has turned into a marketing bonanza. *Eerie*-themed books, apparel, hand-held games, video games, disposable cameras, and board games have been licensed, as well as several fast-food franchise promotions, including the Baskin-Robbins *Eerie* I-Scream flavor. All 208 Discovery Zone locations will participate in a Thanksgiving and Christmas promotional contest that gives participants a chance to attend a taping of the show. As the show enters its second season on Fox, Avon Books has committed to 24 novels based on the show. Avon Executive Editor Elise Howard said, "The sell-in of the novels have wildly exceeded all of our expectations."

Full Moon Video is reviving *Dracula*, Frankenstein's monster, the werewolf, and the mummy in *The Creeps*, a December-shipping straight-to-video movie. But this time, due to an experiment gone awry, the classic monsters are only three feet tall. Scheduled to ship in October are two lines of low-priced Full Moon movies: *Castle Freak*, *Virtual Encounters*, *Petticoat Planet*, *Head of the Family*, *Huntress: Spirit of the Night*, *Femalien*, *Backlash: Oblivion 2*, and *Forbidden Zone: Alien Abduction* are priced at \$14.95. *Assault of the Killer Bimbos*, *Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-o-Rama*, *Slavegirls from beyond Infinity*, *Galactic Gigolo*, *Fairy Tales*, *Laserblast*, *Creepozoids*, *The Day Time Ended*, *End of the World*, and *Zarkorr! The Invader* are priced at \$9.98.

By Marc Patten

While Rubies is releasing its standard super-hero fare with costumes based on Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Spider-Man, Wolverine, and Cyclops, it and other companies are also making more upscale uniforms and masks from TV, movies, and comics. The biggest sellers this year, according to Spencer Gifts and other Halloween-oriented retail outlets, are costumes based on Universal Studios' Greek champions of the syndicated television market, *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* and *Xena: Warrior Princess*. Stores can't keep either get-up in stock for kids or adults.

In the cool masks department, Halloween FX has released a Mars Attacks alien mask ripe for the overtaking, with a price of \$39.95. Illusive Concepts has made a mask of Herman from *The Munsters* that will set you back \$29.95, while a

"The darkness always teemed with unexplained sound — and yet he sometimes shook with fear lest the noises he heard should subside and allow him to hear certain other fainter noises which he suspected were lurking behind them."

— H.P. Lovecraft, "The Dreams in the Witch-House"

"Either total faith or total incredulity would lead us beyond the fantastic: it is hesitation which sustains its life."

— Tzvetan Todorov, *The Fantastic*

They came from the comics: Halloween costumes for 1997



Borg or Data mask from *Star Trek: The Next Generation* will cost you \$24.95. Masks from the *Star Wars* universe made by TGC Inc. and Don Post Studios may run you anywhere from \$29.95 on up with a selection including Emperor Palpatine (including a cloth hood), C-3PO, Darth Vader, Boba Fett, Emperor's Royal Guard, and Chewbacca. On the less expensive side, Disguise Inc. has made a Wolverine mask that sells

for a little over \$12.

Costumes from the world of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*, mostly made by Rubies, include male and female Starfleet uniforms from *ST:TNG* and classic *Trek* male shirts or women's dresses, all available in various colors and ranging in price from \$29.95 to \$39.95. A male Klingon outfit includes a head-piece, shirt, and boot spats for \$44.95. Darth Vader includes a mask, chest-piece, and cloak for \$69.95, while the simpler Leia and Stormtrooper outfits retail for \$44.95.

Other out-of-the-ordinary costumes include: Hagar the Horrible with body suit, stuffed shield, and plush helmet; Hagar's wife, Helga; Mr. Potato Head with plush hat and body suit; and Inspector Clouseau with a puffy plush mask/hat and trench coat. Each is manufactured by Rubies and sells for \$49.95.

Last, and vastly increasing in popularity with kids and adults

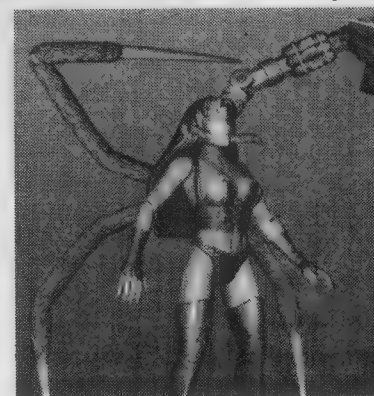
alike, according to shop owners, is Todd McFarlane's *Spawn* (original comic-book costume) by Collegeville/Imaginering Enterprises that includes a belt, muscle chest-piece, cape, and soft rubber spiked arm and leg bands for \$49.95.



'Bad Girls' live! Witches, vampires, and femmes fatales — Oh my!

People disagree on whether the "Bad Girl" craze is alive or dead, but, whichever category these characters fall into, Halloween is the holiday when "Bad Girls" are determined to rise from their graves.

Mike Wolfer's woman-spider character, Widow, is available for order this month, not only in comic-book form from Avatar Press, but also as an action figure and as a trading-card set. Each of the Widow products is scheduled to ship in December. The 7½" action figure is limited to a run of 20,000 units and comes with four removable spider legs and a multi-purpose Cyberleg accessory. One in every six figures shipped will have a blue variant costume at no extra cost. A gold variant costume will also be produced in a run of 6000 figures. The 90-card Widow trading-card set will feature art by Wolfer, Rick Lyon, Matt Martin, Bill Maus, Karl Moline, Trevlin Utz, and others. Five foil chase cards will be inserted in an approximate ratio of three in every 32 packs. Three different signed cards will be inserted in an approximate ratio of two per 32 packs. Six different red leather bonus cards will be inserted in an approximate ratio of five per 320 packs. Each eight-card pack has a suggested retail price of \$1.65. A card-holding binder will also be available at the suggested



price of \$19.95.

Comic Images has just released its *Elvira: Mistress of OmniChrome* 72-card set, a mixture of photos and

colored panels from *Elvira's Claypool* comic book. Chase cards include six different chromium cards and 500 randomly inserted cards autographed by *Elvira*. Each seven-card pack has a suggested retail price of \$1.99.

Scheduled for October release is a *Hari Kari* action figure, which Blackout Publisher Bruce Schoen-good said is the first in a series of action figures based on *Blackout* characters and only available through the direct market. The six-inch *Hari Kari* figure was designed by Tommy Castillo and sculpted by Michael Leone.

Krome Productions is scheduled to release its fourth annual *Lady Death* trading-card set in November with the *Lady Death: Wicked Ways Chromium* set. The set will feature 90 Chromium cards with art by Steven Hughes and others. Chase cards include six "state-of-the-art" Chromium cards in a ratio of three per 36 packs and four "Mega Chromium" cards in a ratio of one in every 36 packs. A total of 50 invitation cards to the Chaos! Halloween Bash '98 will be randomly inserted, half in packs and half in display boxes. (Krome plans a 50-card *Razor: Gothic Chromium* card set featuring art by Everett Hartsoe for December.)

the toy box

Beanie Babies mutate into new product. Beanie Babies, look out. Make way for Meanies from The Idea Factory. These new bean bag toys threaten to kick the stuffing out of those cutsey Beanie Baby toys. Aimed at the boys market, which the beanies weren't hitting, the first assortment of these critters scheduled to ship the beginning of October include: Fi and Do, the two-headed Dalmatian; Splat the Road Kill Kat; Peter the Gotta Peegul; Boris the Mucousaurus; Hurley the Pukin' Toucan; Otis the Octapunk; Sledge the Hammerhead Shark; and Bart the Elephant. The second wave shipping the beginning of



1998 will include: Donny Didn't Duck; Holy Cow; Tick the Contagious Cat, and Flap the Velociraptor. The toys were the brainchild of Allen LeWinter, a former marketer of Barney the Dinosaur.

Cookie jars immortalize Munsters. Star Jars has released a set of limited-edition porcelain cookie jars based on "TV's first family of fright," *The Munsters*.

One jar features a Herman image, while the other is a bust caricature of Grandpa.

The Jars have a suggested retail price of \$600 and the edition is limited to 700 numbered sets.

— Marc Patten

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82 FR brittle	30	51 G +		49 VF +		1,800		23 FN-		6 G + tpe	
89 VG	100	87 G + tp		1 F/VF		1,200		24 VG-		18 G acid in face	
112 G	40	97 G +		34 NM-		300		27 PR		6 G + tpe	
136 FN	100	15 VG punch hole		33 G +		25		28 VG/FN		50	
98 VG	150	Green Hornet		33 VG-		50		31 VG		6 G + tpe	
106 G +	65	18 FR		33 VG-		50		38 VG		18 G acid in face	
108 FN	70	Green Lantern		33 VG-		50		38 VG		6 G + tpe	
112 G	50	The Killers		33 VG-		50		38 VG		18 G acid in face	
121 G +	60	1 VG		225		2 VG +		30		6 G + tpe	
31 G	95	MAD		1 VG-		750		8 FN +		50	
78 VG + wtr stn	100	Marvel Boy		2 FN-		195		6 G +		6 G + tpe	
43 G	100	Marvel Mystery Comics		57 FR/G		75		16 PR (1950) giant rat		18 G acid in face	
15 FR	175	Master Comics		44 VG		70		16 PR (1950) giant rat		50	
24 VG tan pgs	220	46 VG		41 G		55		7 FN-		6 G + tpe	
41 G	60	47 VG +		43 VG-		165		10 G +		18 G acid in face	
43 VG-	165	1 G tp		1 PR/FR		85		13 VG +		50	
Black Terror	85	98 FN-		10 VG- bondage cvr		155		14 G/VG 1950		6 G + tpe	
Brenda Starr	100	1 (2nd) VG +		Buster Crabbe		120		15 G + 1950		50	
4 VG Frazetta	120	5 great skull cover		5 VG Frazetta		275		19 VG-		6 G + tpe	
5 VG Frazetta	275	VG + wtr stn		21 VG		500		21 VG-		6 G + tpe	
21 VG	500	22 VG +		22 VG		275		23 VG +		6 G + tpe	
22 G/VG	345	45 FN		40 G + loose cvr		200		26 VG		6 G + tpe	
65 VG	300	48 VG +		65 VG		300		28 G + wtr stn		6 G + tpe	
Captain Marvel	300	73 VF +		15 VG		125		44 G/VG		6 G + tpe	
Adventures	125	17 G + tr		35 FN-		100		45 G/VG		6 G + tpe	
49 VG +	85	43 FN		49 VG +		85		59 FN +		6 G + tpe	
Detective	275	52 FN/VF		68 VG		275		66 FR/G (Hulk prob-		6 G + tpe	
119 G	55	2 FN		161 VG		120		72 FR wtr dng		6 G + tpe	
161 VG	120	51 VF/NM + scarce		163 VG		120		79 G- (Mr. Hyde prob-		6 G + tpe	
163 VG	120	15 VG		17 VG + (origin Crypt		175		38 VG +		6 G + tpe	
		Keeper)									

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F.C. #95 VF/NM	296	R.R. #11 VG (noc pencil)	20	R.R. #30 FN	28	R.R. #50 FN	16
F.C. #109 VF	181	R.R. #12 VG (noc pencil)	20	R.R. #31 FN	22	R.R. #51 VF	35
F.C. #117 FN	59	R.R. #13 FN	33	R.R. #32 VF	46	R.R. #52 VG/FN	12
F.C. #124 VF	129	R.R. #14 VG/FN	25	R.R. #33 VF	46	R.R. #54 VF/NM	43
F.C. #137 NM	198	R.R. #15 NM	110	R.R. #34 FN/VF	34	R.R. #61 VG/FN	12
F.C. #144 NM	198	R.R. #16 FN	33	R.R. #35 VF	46	R.R. #62 FN	16
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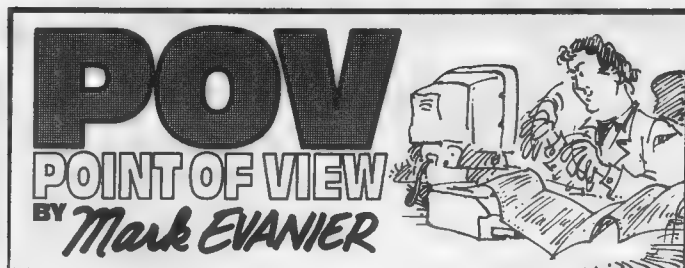
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Ralph was a comics fan. He still is. That never changes.

It's like being an alcoholic: You can quit Cold Turkey, give it up for decades, but you're still an alcoholic. Ralph, in very much the same sense, was and is a comics fan, though he hasn't purchased one since you could buy a copy of *Thor* for \$1 and still get change back. So it's been a while.



"Comics fans are some of the cheapest people who walk this planet, and the reason many of them walk is that they're too damned cheap to even take the bus."

— Mark Evanier

There are many things you can say about comics fans and, like all generalizations, these only apply to those they apply to. But most do seem to be a little hipper, a little more imaginative, a little more cognizant of all forms of popular culture (not just comics) than your average collector of, say, barbed wire. And there's another quality that most comic fans seem to share —

They're cheap. Absurdly, interminably, repugnantly cheap. Comics fans are some of the cheapest people who walk this planet, and the reason many of them walk is that they're too damned cheap to even take the bus.

By "cheap," I am not referring to a person for whom funds are sparse. Some people must consider carefully the expenditure of every nickel so that they have enough of them left to pay their rent, their phone bill, their Visa statement, etc. That's not cheap; that's common sense.

No, by "cheap," I'm talking about the person who has it but just plain doesn't want to spend it — or, worse, the person who has it but doesn't want to spend it on the basics of living so that he can, instead, spend it on old comic books. That's cheap. That's real cheap.

You want to see a graphic demonstration of the concept of "eternity"? Just watch two comics fans sitting in a restaurant, each waiting for the other to pick up the check. A brontosaurus could turn into Arco Super Unleaded in the time it takes a comics fan to say, "I'll get this." (Comics fans are also rotten tippers. Ask any waitress at any coffee shop in any hotel that is host to any comics convention. One of them once asked me, "Does everyone who reads comic books think that 15% of \$12 is 35¢?")

Now, you — the person reading this — might be an exception. Especially if you actually bought this issue and aren't standing in a store, scanning all the articles, intending to jam it back into the rack when you're done. But by and

large, your average comics fan makes Jack Benny look like a philanthropist.

Case in point: Ralph.

Ralph (whose real name is not Ralph) is a guy I knew around 1970-1974. I don't know where or when I met him, but he was a devout comics fan and, as often as not, that's enough. I'd run into him at conventions and bookstores, and, every once in a while, he'd come over and we'd talk funnybooks.

The first inkling I got of how insufferably cheap Ralph was came when he had to mail me something. It came in a used manila envelope. He'd taped over the old address and postage and reused it to mail to me. If I'd thought he'd done this to conserve paper, I might have applauded the effort. But the Scotch people probably had had to cut down half a forest, just to manufacture the tape he used. The next time I saw Ralph, I mentioned the hand-me-down envelope.

"It's fannish," he explained.

I said, "It's not fannish. It's cheap." Manila envelopes at the time went for an exorbitant 2¢ apiece — less, when purchased in bulk.

A few months later, an outta-town comics convention was coming up, and Ralph called to see if I wanted to go in on a room. I told him, "Thanks, but I like having my own room. Have you thought about calling Bob?"

He said, "Oh, Bob's already going in on the room. And so is Pete and so are Phil and Jason and Tom and Alfred and Steve."

I gasped: "Seven guys" sharing one room?"

Ralph said, "Actually, I'm hoping for 11." They would get one room with two double beds, then they would move the mattresses onto the floor. Two guys would sleep on each mattress, two guys would sleep on each box spring. Then there'd be two more guys with sleeping bags (God knows where) — and Ralph himself was going to fill the bathtub with towels and sleep in there.

I started to ask what would happen if someone wanted to take a bath in the morn. Then I realized: These were comic fans. Not much chance of that.

I did ask Ralph why, in the name of Tom Bodett, he wanted to force, stuff, and otherwise vacuum-seal 11 sweaty young men into one hotel room. Answer: The rooms were \$22. This way, it only cost each of them two bananas per night. "Besides," Ralph proclaimed. "Room-cramming is fan-

nish."

I said, "It's not fannish. It's cheap." Several of those guys, I knew, were going to spend \$50-\$100 for every old *Whiz Comics* they could locate. But, when it came to the basics of life, they were going to live like prisoners of war and dine at no place costlier than Arby's.

Ralph's *magnum opus* of frugality came the first (and maybe the last) time he ever went out on a date.

He was working at an office — drawing down a decent salary, I might add — and a young lady down the hall seemed to like him. "What should I do?" he asked me on the phone one evening.

"Why don't you ask her out?" I suggested. I'm sure you would have given him much the same advice.

"How do I do that?"

I sighed. "Pick out a movie that's playing — something you think *she* might enjoy seeing, not something *you* want to see because it has nude scenes in it —" (I could hear Ralph mentally scratching *Night Call Nurses* from his list of options.) "And also pick out a restaurant — a real one, not McDonald's: someplace with waitresses and metal utensils."

"OK, then what do I do?"

"You walk up to her and — what's her name?"

"Melissa."

"Fine. You say, 'Melissa, there's a movie I've been dying to see and I was wondering if you'd like to go this weekend. Maybe we could even get a bite of dinner first?'" Ralph took it down, verbatim. Olivier did not rehearse *Macbeth* half as intensely, and Ralph was going to practice these lines.

The next day, he called back. "It worked! She said yes! We're going out this Saturday night."

"Mazel tov," I said. "What movie are you going to see?"

"*The Last of Sheila*," he said. "And it has no nude scenes in it."

I was a little puzzled. *The Last of Sheila* had come out about eight months before. "Where are you seeing this?"

"The Pix," Ralph announced.

I moaned. The Pix — which is no longer on Hollywood Boulevard but was then — was a cesspool with aisles. It was the kind of theater where the lady in the box office wears No-Pest Strips for earrings and the refreshment counter sells popcorn, bon-bons, and mace. The Pix ran ninth-run movies for a tenth-rate audience, and its main (only) appeal to Ralph was that all seats were 99¢ all the time, including those with dead

bodies in them.

"Take her to a first-run movie," I commanded.

"But they charge —"

"Take her to a first-run movie!" A ticket at a first-run theater then was about \$3.

Grudgingly, Ralph selected a cleaner theater. Saturday evening, he put on his best clothes (from the Garanimals designer collection) and picked her up at the agreed-upon hour. First stop was dinner, for which Ralph had chosen the local outlet of Biff's, a chain of coffee shops which made Denny's look like Maxim's of Paris. At Biff's, you could get a complete meal for under two bucks, and that was with wine.

Melissa, demonstrating more taste in food than she'd shown in men, didn't want to go to Biff's. No sooner was she in the car than she said, "I've always wanted to go to Lawry's. How about taking me to Lawry's?" Lawry's is a slightly fancy restaurant that specializes in Prime Rib, expertly carved at your table by a man with a gold medallion around his neck. It is not the cheapest place to dine. (Last week when I was there, dinner for two ran around 75 bucks. It was correspondingly expensive at the time of this story.)

Ralph had never heard of Lawry's. He figured it was another coffee shop like Biff's, so he agreed to take her there, instead. When he followed Melissa's directions and found a semi-ornate building with valet parking, he got worried.

And when they got inside and he saw elegant chandeliers and cloth tablecloths, he got panicked.

And when they were seated and he got a look at the menu, he got up, said he had to use the men's room, found a pay phone, and called me.

I was home when Ralph — poor, hysterical Ralph — called with his woeful dilemma. He had been tricked ("duped" was the word he used) into taking this woman — a woman he barely knew — to a restaurant where dinner might run \$30 (\$30.50 with tip). "What am I going to do?" he asked.

I said, "Have the Diamond Jim cut, medium rare, and make sure you get the creamed corn. It's terrific."

"No, I'm serious, Evanier," he pleaded. "What am I going to do?"

"Do you have enough money on you to pay the check?"

He said, "Yes. More than enough."

So I told him, "You're going to go back to the table and eat and

(Continued on Page 32)

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203 FR	20.00	41 FR	25.00	231 NM	7.00	15 VG/F	25.00	278 VF	6.00	113 VF	5.00	3 F/VF	5.00	10.00	11 VF	4.00	148 VG	25.00	9 NM	5.00	182 F/VF	30.00	1 VG+	3 NM	3.00	
250 FR	15.00	42 VG+	36.00	232 NM	7.00	16 VG/F	25.00	280 F	4.00	141 NM	12.00	2 VG/F	13.00	DEMON	1 F	18.00	149 VG/F	28.00	10 NM	5.00	200 F	17.00	10.00	5 NM	10.00	
251 FR	15.00	43 F	34.00	233 NM	7.00	17 VG	18.00	283 F	4.00	191 VF/NM	7.00	7 F	15.00	2 VF	15.00	2 F	15.00	150 VG	20.00	11 NM	5.00	300 NM	5.00	7 VF	3.00	
253 G/VG	50.00	44 VG+	24.00	234 NM	7.00	22 VG	14.00	287 F	4.00			8 F	17.00	10.00	10.00	3 F	15.00	152 F	20.00	12 NM	5.00	1 F	30.00	LOIS LANE	4 FR+	28.00
292 G	8.00	46 VG+	24.00	235 F (no tattoos)		23 VG/F	14.00	300 NM	10.00			10 VG/F	17.00	10.00	10.00	7 F/VF	14.00	153 F	22.00	13 NM	5.00	3 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
293 G	8.00	47 F	36.00			24 VG/F	14.00	306 NM	10.00			11 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	8 F/VF	14.00	154 F	22.00	14 NM	5.00	5 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
295 F	20.00	48 F	36.00	239 VF/NM	35.00	27 F	22.00	308 NM	10.00	1 VG/F	10.00	10 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	9 F/VF	14.00	155 F	22.00	15 NM	5.00	6 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
310 VG/F	6.00	51 G	19.00	240 NM	7.00	28 F	22.00	309 F	6.00	2 VG/F	10.00	11 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	10 F/VF	14.00	156 F	22.00	16 NM	5.00	7 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
312 F	10.00	52 F	26.00	241 NM	7.00	32 F	28.00	315 F	6.00	3 VG/F	10.00	12 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	11 F/VF	14.00	157 F	22.00	17 NM	5.00	8 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
313 VG+	6.00	53 G/VG	15.00	242 NM	8.00	34 VG/F	28.00	316 F	7.00	4 VG/F	10.00	13 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	12 F/VF	14.00	158 F	22.00	18 NM	5.00	9 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
338 VG	5.00	54 F	25.00	243 NM	8.00	36 VG/F	28.00	318 VF/NM	8.00	5 VG/F	10.00	14 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	13 F/VF	14.00	159 F	22.00	19 NM	5.00	10 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
343 F/VF	8.00	55 F	30.00	244 NM	8.00	37 F	22.00	319 VF/NM	8.00	6 VG/F	10.00	15 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	14 F/VF	14.00	160 F	22.00	20 NM	5.00	11 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
359 F	5.00	56 VG/F	24.00	245 NM	15.00	38 F	22.00	320 NM	10.00	7 VG/F	10.00	16 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	15 F/VF	14.00	161 F	22.00	21 NM	5.00	12 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
365 F	4.00	57 VG+	22.00	246 NM	8.00	39 VF	35.00	327 F	5.00	8 VG/F	10.00	17 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	16 F/VF	14.00	162 F	22.00	22 NM	5.00	13 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
380 F/VF	7.00	58 VG/F	24.00	247 NM	8.00	40 VF+	35.00	330 F	7.00	9 VG/F	10.00	18 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	17 F/VF	14.00	163 F	22.00	23 NM	5.00	14 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
386 VG	3.00	60 F	28.00	249 NM	14.00	41 VG	30.00	331 NM	10.00	10 VG/F	10.00	19 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	18 F/VF	14.00	164 F	22.00	24 NM	5.00	15 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
388 F/VF	6.00	61 F	19.00	250 NM	10.00	42 VF	30.00	332 NM	12.00	11 VG/F	10.00	20 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	19 F/VF	14.00	165 F	22.00	25 NM	5.00	16 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
395 F	5.00	62 VG	19.00	252 NM	10.00	43 F	30.00	333 F	7.00	12 VG/F	10.00	21 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	20 F/VF	14.00	166 F	22.00	26 NM	5.00	17 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
396 NM	8.00	63 F	20.00	253 VF	6.00	44 F	30.00	334 F	7.00	13 VG/F	10.00	22 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	21 F/VF	14.00	167 F	22.00	27 NM	5.00	18 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
397 NM	8.00	64 VG	15.00	255 VF	10.00	45 F	30.00	335 F	7.00	14 VG/F	10.00	23 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	22 F/VF	14.00	168 F	22.00	28 NM	5.00	19 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
399 VF	7.00	65 F	20.00	256 NM	28.00	46 F	30.00	336 F	7.00	15 VG/F	10.00	24 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	23 F/VF	14.00	169 F	22.00	29 NM	5.00	20 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
412 VF	10.00	66 VG+	15.00	257 NM	10.00	47 F	30.00	337 NM	10.00	16 VG/F	10.00	25 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	24 F/VF	14.00	170 F	22.00	30 NM	5.00	21 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
413 VF	10.00	67 VG	15.00	258 NM	10.00	48 F	30.00	338 F	7.00	17 VG/F	10.00	26 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	25 F/VF	14.00	171 F	22.00	31 NM	5.00	22 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
430 F/VF	5.00	68 F	24.00	259 NM	10.00	49 F	30.00	339 F	7.00	18 VG/F	10.00	27 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	26 F/VF	14.00	172 F	22.00	32 NM	5.00	23 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
449 F	3.00	69 F/VF	30.00	260 NM	5.00	50 F	30.00	340 F	7.00	19 VG/F	10.00	28 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	27 F/VF	14.00	173 F	22.00	33 NM	5.00	24 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
ADVENTURE		71 F	24.00	274 NM	5.00	19 VG/F	25.00	343 VF/NM	8.00	112 VG+	10.00	29 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	28 F/VF	14.00	174 F	22.00	34 NM	5.00	25 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
244 VG	55.00	73 VG/F	18.00	276 NM	12.00	21 VG+	16.00	345 NM	10.00	113 VG+	10.00	30 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	29 F/VF	14.00	175 F	22.00	35 NM	5.00	26 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
251 FR	12.00	74 G/VG	18.00	278 NM	12.00	22 VG+	16.00	346 NM	10.00	114 VG+	10.00	31 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	30 F/VF	14.00	176 F	22.00	36 NM	5.00	27 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
260 G	7.00	75 F	18.00	282 NM	12.00	23 VG+	16.00	347 NM	10.00	115 VG+	10.00	32 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	31 F/VF	14.00	177 F	22.00	37 NM	5.00	28 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
262 VG	30.00	76 VG	11.00	283 NM	10.00	24 VG+	16.00	348 NM	10.00	116 VG+	10.00	33 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	32 F/VF	14.00	178 F	22.00	38 NM	5.00	29 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
268 FR/VG	10.00	77 VG	11.00	284 NM	6.00	25 VG+	16.00	349 NM	10.00	117 VG+	10.00	34 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	33 F/VF	14.00	179 F	22.00	39 NM	5.00	30 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
269 FR	16.00	78 VG	12.00	288 NM	9.00	27 F	18.00	351 F/VF	4.00	121 VG+	10.00	35 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	34 F/VF	14.00	180 F	22.00	40 NM	5.00	31 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
270 G	13.00	79 VG	12.00	289 NM	24.00	28 F	18.00	359 NM	10.00	122 VG+	10.00	36 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	35 F/VF	14.00	181 F	22.00	41 NM	5.00	32 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
271 G	25.00	80 F	17.00	289 NM	24.00	29 F	18.00	360 NM	10.00	123 VG+	10.00	37 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	36 F/VF	14.00	182 F	22.00	42 NM	5.00	33 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
272 G	11.00	81 F/VF	12.00	293 NM	3.00	30 VG+	12.00	363 NM	6.00	131 VG+	10.00	38 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	37 F/VF	14.00	183 F	22.00	43 NM	5.00	34 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
275 G	24.00	82 F	15.00	299 NM	30.00	33 VG+	20.00	364 NM	6.00	133 VG+	10.00	39 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	38 F/VF	14.00	184 F	22.00	44 NM	5.00	35 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
281 FR/VG	8.00	84 F	15.00	300 VG	25.00	34 VG+	20.00	365 NM	6.00	134 VG+	10.00	40 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	39 F/VF	14.00	185 F	22.00	45 NM	5.00	36 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
289 VG	44.00	85 G/VG	8.00	301 NM	10.00	35 VG+	20.00	366 NM	15.00	136 VG+	10.00	41 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	40 F/VF	14.00	186 F	22.00	46 NM	5.00	37 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
291 F/VF	34.00	86 VG	8.00	303 NM	15.00	36 VG+	20.00	368 NM	10.00	137 VG+	10.00	42 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	41 F/VF	14.00	187 F	22.00	47 NM	5.00	38 F/VF	4.00	4 FR+	24.00	38.00
292 F	24.00	87 VG	12.00	303 NM	15.00	37 F	18.00	370 NM	6.00	138 VG+	10.00	43 VG/F	18.00	10.00	10.00	42 F/VF	14.00	188 F	2							

[illegible]

Point of View

Dan T's Inferno: "Change o' Pace"

By Dan Tyree

"There's no such thing as having too much fun."

So says a recent country song, but maybe we are trying to have too much fun in comics.

We've seen countless letters bemoaning how lucre-driven company-wide crossovers mess with the integrity of individual series' storylines, but that's only the tip of the iceberg.

In the quest for a "change o' pace," we are constantly bombarded with pocket universes, "dark" doppelgangers, alternate futures, cyberspace fantasies, tangents, amalgams, anomalies, temporary replacements, berserker rages, flashbacks, amnesia, banishments, power changes, dream sequences, noncanonical "What If?/Elseworlds" stories, etc.

John Byrne's "Terror in a Tiny Town" (*Fantastic Four* #236) was a real treat, but the industry's current search for different perspectives has left us with a mind-jangling fly's-eye perspective.

No, I don't want a moratorium — but a slowdown and a "back to basics" movement with firm mythos foundations would work wonders. How about letting heroes function with their normal environment, supporting cast, timelines, and personalities for at least two issues in a row?

If your hero is over-exposed or poorly conceived, fess up and deal with *ennui* without bells and whistles.

When change o' pace becomes the norm, it's not really a change o' pace, is it?

(From Page 28)

have a nice evening. And, no, you cannot ask her to pay half."

He cried, "Half? I think she should pay the whole thing. I didn't want to come to a place like this. Spending this much money just for dinner? At Biff's, they have a meat loaf plate that comes with potatoes and soup —"

I interrupted: "Ralph, you make a decent salary and, tonight, you're going to spend a tiny bit of it on yourself and a woman you claimed you liked."

"Well," he said, "I'd better get a lot more than a good-night kiss—"

"That was enough for me. I told him, 'You are going to go back and eat and make pleasant conversation and you're going to pay the check and you're going to tip.'"

"Then you're going to take her to the movie and buy her Raisinets or Jujubes or whatever she wants, and, if she wants ice cream after, you're going to buy her ice cream. Then you're going to take her home and you are not — repeat: *not* — going to expect anything more intimate than a handshake."

He started to argue, but I told him, "Don't be a jerk," although I used a stronger word than "jerk." And then I hung up on him.

Three days later, I was at a newsstand and I ran into Ralph. "Hey," he said. "You see the new *House of Mystery*? Wally Wood story in the back."

I asked, "So how'd the date go? Did she like the movie?"

"Oh, we never got to the movie. After I got off the phone with you, I got to thinking. I didn't want to go to an expensive restaurant. And if she was going to make me take her to a place like that, well, maybe she isn't the girl for me."

"So —?"

"So I went outside, got my car back, and went home."

"What about Melissa? You didn't just leave her there in Lawry's?"

Ralph nodded. Yes, he had just left her there in Lawry's. "And, you know, the funny thing is," he went on, "the next morning at work, she was acting mad at me. Like I was the one who had done something wrong!"

That was Ralph and, as I said, he was a comics fan and always will be. He just doesn't buy them any more.

He gave them up when they hit some cover price — maybe 60¢, maybe \$1 — that he just couldn't see himself paying. The last time I ran into him, he told me he occasionally peeked at the racks and

he couldn't believe what they were charging. "\$1.75 for a comic book? \$2.95?"

I doubt he'd like what most publishers are currently doing — especially what they're doing to characters he loved when he'd followed them regularly. But there's no way Ralph's going to spring for the tariff to follow comics these days — not when a comic book is \$1.95 and it crosses over with six other titles that cost \$2.95 each and then lead into a series of \$4.95 annuals.

Yes, I know that most of this is inflation; that when comics were 15¢, a Hershey bar was a nickel, and today both cost 20 times as much. But I also know that, in these days of mega-crossovers and deluxe reprint volumes and multiple-cover editions, to fully collect some groups is a pretty frightening financial commitment.

The comic-book industry may well have lost forever the Ralphs of the world.

Recently, Marvel tried a few experiments in low-priced comics, issuing some with a 99¢ price tag. It may have isolated the problem, but I don't think it found the right solution. Kids who think comics are too expensive aren't going to care that one Spider-Man comic book can be had for under a buck, because no kid is going to collect just the one, cheap Spider-Man comic book.

If he likes Spider-Man at all, he knows he can't stop there. He's going to have to collect the \$1.95 Spider-Man comics, too. And the \$2.95 Spider-Man comics and the \$4.95 Spider-Man Specials. And then there are the \$14.95 Spider-Man collections and the crossover with the X-Men titles and —

— and the whole thing is like one of those CD clubs where you can get your first CD for a penny and you later discover you have to buy 73 more for \$29.95 apiece. It's a trap — one I think many now seek to avoid by avoiding Spider-Man or any other "series" comic book.

They don't want to get hooked into buying an endless run of products with fluctuating quality and escalating prices. Most comic-book readers find that they can't stop with one. If they like one, they have to get them all, including the crummy issues, so they'd rather not get the one.

And that's not being cheap. That, my friend, is fannish.

Mark Evanier has stormy eyes that flash at the sound of lies. He can be reached at 363 S. Fairfax Ave., #303, Los Angeles, CA 90036, or in cyberspace at evanier@ix.netcom.com.



By Maggie Thompson

The three items this week are each Done in One — and, therefore, ideal for gift-giving, in addition to purchase for selfish pleasures.

• Bongo has a number of fun things out. The third annual *Treehouse of Horror's* "The Immigration of the Body Snatchers" (1997, \$2.50) is scripted by Evan Dorkin, pencilled by Bill Morrison, Stephanie Gladden, and Phil Ortiz, and inked by Tim Bavington and Morrison. There's an almost-issue-long story involving pod people ("Emotions aren't good for anything, Homer. They only lead to bad things like competition, jealousy and Hallmark cards.") and alien invasions with a kicker which works nicely (and should have kids



absolutely falling on the floor).

And don't miss *Simpsons Comics* #32 (1997, \$2.25), scripted by Jeff Rosenthal; pencilled by Bavington, Gladden, and Ortiz; and inked by Bavington and Morrison. The story begins with attempts to attract coffeehouse customers and ends in a poetry contest between Lisa and Martin; it includes such concepts as the "limku" — a blend of limerick



and haiku. Backup is covers from "forgotten" Bongo titles like *Ned Flanders' Summer Baptism Special*.

• When reporters or parents ask me to recommend titles that all ages will have few problems with, I come up with a suggestion for titles they'll actually enjoy: the "Adventures" titles. (Among others who should check these out are long-time fans who yearn for classic tales from the early Silver Age — with their focus on clear, complete, plot-driven super-heroic doings.) Take, for example, *Superman Adventures* #13 (Nov 97, DC, \$1.75). Written by Scott McCloud, pencilled by Rick Burchett, and inked by Terry Austin, the aliens-and-baseball tale even recalls to longtime comics buffs the *Strange Sports Stories* series of days past. (Note: Superman says, in the midst of a punch-out with the nasty alien, "I never fight for sport.") Simple, clear art; simple, clear story.

• *The Wizard's Tale* by Kurt Busiek and David Wenzel (1997, Homage, ISBN 1-887279-34-2, \$19.95) is a gorgeous trade paperback novel of an evil wizard who doesn't live up to his job description. The paintings are packed to the borders with elaborate detail that will keep kids and grownups alike entranced, as they get to know the endearing failure at villainy. Instead of monsters, for example, his spells have produced countless creatures who bustle through the action like Palmer Cox's Brownies of days gone by. Usual layouts for the project are a detail-packed, full-page panel on the left and a clear but equally packed panelled page on the right. And each page is a gem.





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Garth Ennis: The good, the bad, and the other

WANTED:
BAD
DUDES
HEROES NEED
NOT APPLY

"If I had grown up in a Muslim society, then I suppose *Preacher* would've been about the Muslim religion, but then I probably would've had my hands hacked off long ago."
— Garth Ennis



Ennis uses assassins in many of his series, including: *The Darkness* (above), *Hitman* (right), and *Preacher*.

By Matt Brady

Entering the comics world at 19, Garth Ennis started writing for the U.K. anthology series *Crisis*, a companion to the popular *2000 A.D.* Hard-edged stories about the political climate in his native Northern Ireland, Ennis' work at *Crisis* was collected into a trade paperback and, along with the editors at *2000 A.D.*, came to the attention of DC Vertigo Editor Karen Berger. Shortly thereafter, Ennis was writing *Hellblazer* with art by Steve Dillon.

DC liked what it saw and offered Ennis the writing job on *The Demon*, a series he took to with particular relish. While writing *The Demon*, Ennis created a character named Tommy Monaghan for 1993's "Bloodlines" crossover. Monaghan would later spin off into his own series, *Hitman*.

After a respectable 43-issue run, the time came for Ennis and Dillon to leave *Hellblazer*, and the two (close friends from before their *Hellblazer* days) started looking for another series that they could move to together. Not finding anything, they took the next logical step and created their own. And *Preacher* was born. "Preacher was the ideal project," Ennis said, his Irish accent barely discernible. "It was ongoing, it was something that Steve and I could do together, and, as far as the theme is concerned, it developed from a number of things that I was very interested in. There were a lot of films and novels that I was into, and a lot of my own concerns and interests with America all went into the soup, and *Preacher* was the result."

And the rest is history. Since its debut almost three years ago, *Preacher* has been cutting a swath of violence and irreverence across the comic scene, grabbing new readers, offending critics, and making just about everyone sit up and take notice. It was a title called a new-Western epic by some, an affront to Christianity by others, and a rollicking good series by many.

In a nutshell, *Preacher* details the life and times of Rev. Jesse Custer, who is, not so much possessed by, but possesses the power, of Genesis, a new kind of spiritual being, produced from the union of an angel and a demon: a being that could give God a run for his money. The problem? Jesse doesn't have an instruction manual on how to use his new powers and wants to talk to God, who has left Heaven, apparently on the

run from Jesse. So, joined by his girlfriend, the former hitwoman Tulip, and the Irish vampire Cassidy, the three have set off on a mission: Find God and hold him accountable for abandoning Heaven.

The storyline of *Preacher* may sound like the nightmares of a repressed Catholic, but (surprisingly?) Ennis' stories aren't motivated by a tyrannical upbringing by ruler-wielding nuns. "I used to get letters from people who felt that *Preacher* must be the result of a horrible childhood. But that's really so far from the truth. I never had any serious religious upbringing, but, being raised in a Western society, it's difficult not to be exposed to Christianity. Because it was the one that was there, it was the one that annoyed me. If I had grown up in a Muslim society, then I suppose *Preacher* would've been about the Muslim religion, but then I probably would've had my hands hacked off long ago."

While mucking about with violence and religion liberally, *Preacher* also speaks strongly about the human condition. Cass and Jesse are friends who are closer and more loyal to each other than most brothers, while Jesse and Tulip love each other very much, and their love is portrayed in an extremely realistic light.

For Ennis, putting Jesse and Tulip together was a knee-jerk reaction from coming off *Hellblazer*. "After spending so much time with a character who's always going to fail when he gets involved with women, I was interested in writing a traditional love story where the people genuinely did love each other and weren't constantly playing tricks on one another. At the end of issue #12, where Jesse and Tulip kiss in front of the burning mansion, that's pure *Gone with the Wind*-type stuff; there's some very iconic imagery there."

Preacher may have attracted more critics than any comic book in recent memory.

Naturally, Ennis is sensitive to *Preacher*'s critics — to a point. "A lot of the negative criticism of *Preacher* is not that well thought-out. I've heard that people have the notion that *Preacher*'s nothing but violence and shock talk. Only an idiot could read the series and feel that there's nothing more to it than that. A lot of people just don't like the violence and they don't like the shocking aspects of it and the extreme black humor or



the swearing, so they simply put out the idea that there is nothing more to the series than those aspects.

"To focus only on those aspects is willfully misrepresenting the comic book. I don't mind so much, because it helps to build the notoriety of the series, which helps the sales."

Once his reputation was established with *Preacher*, DC OK'd an ongoing *Hitman* series, a series and character near and dear to Ennis' heart that's been generating a steady hum of buzz from both fans and critics.

"Tommy's a very unlikely character," Ennis said. "I don't think he's representative of hitmen in general. I think most hitmen are extremely cruel people who can't turn around and lead a normal life the way he appears to be able to. Having said that, it's important to remember that Tommy lives in a world where grown men dress in tights and fight other grown men in tights, so what's

more unlikely? Tommy fits in nicely in the middle section of the DC universe."

Also, Ennis said he finds *Hitman* fairly easy to write because Tommy hits close to home. "There's a bit of me in all my characters. But, the truth be told, I'm really closest to Tommy, who, for all his razor-sharp reflexes and equally sharp wit, is just a slob at heart, really. Tommy spends his days between jobs just hanging out at the local bar talking with his friends, which would be a pretty ideal existence for me if I didn't have to do all this writing."

With all the attention, good and bad, Ennis attracted with *Preacher* and *Hitman*, it was only a matter of time until others came knocking. After a few smaller projects here and there, Ennis helped to launch Top Cow's *The Darkness*, writing the first six issues and expanding Top Cow's *Darkness* and *Witchblade* mythology.

The Darkness tells the tale of

Jackie Estacado, a Mafia hitman who's inherited the near limitless power of *The Darkness*. The upside? The Darkness power can help Jackie perform his job better, giving him powers far beyond those of mortal hitmen. The downside? The power is passed from father to son at the moment of conception, so, if you want to hold on to the power, you say goodbye to sex.

For Ennis, the decision to write *The Darkness* had a couple of contributing factors. "I started *The Darkness* because it looked as though it would be worthwhile, and, honestly, a chance to make some big money while at the same time writing a series that I would enjoy, rather than gritting my teeth, putting on a fake smile, and writing *The X-Men* or something that I wouldn't enjoy. At least with a character like Jackie, I got a chance to work in a little world that I enjoy writing about."

While Ennis left the series with issue #6 due to his workload, he's set to return with #11 in a co-plotting capacity and said he hopes to address some issues left

unresolved from his first run. "The original idea was to start out with a really bad guy who's given this incredibly evil power and then turn him slowly into a good guy who was stuck doing good with the evil power. Unfortunately, I was enjoying writing Jackie as evil so much that I completely forgot to do that in the first six issues, and Jackie maintained his complete unlikableness right through. He's now an even bigger bad guy with an evil power."

And Jackie has yet to find his redemption. "As far as I'm concerned, Jackie is well over the edge of what makes someone a villain," Ennis said. "He's a Mafia hitman, completely without morality. He is a bad, bad man."

Jackie Estacado typifies traits that Ennis puts into many of his characters. Despite their questionable deeds, Ennis' characters all have a likable side thanks in part to their realistic moral codes. From Jesse to Tommy to Jackie, all possess morality on a slider. All may be honorable men and true to their hearts, but, when the chips are down, don't expect it to

be pretty.

"The appeal of these characters to me is that they allow you to cross a line that you couldn't with more upright characters," Ennis said. "I couldn't have Batman or Superman doing half the things I have these characters doing. A lot of it comes from the kind of characters that I grew up reading, like Judge Dredd — characters that would be more than happy to go that extra mile and do things that the morally upright wouldn't do."

Ennis also discussed tricks of writing about a morally ambiguous protagonist — put them up against a real nasty sort. "It's the old Dirty Harry concept, where you create an ambiguous character and then you have to create a villain that is so much worse that you can't wait for the ambiguous hero to be turned loose on him," Ennis said. "When you look at the scene in the movie when Harry's grinding his foot into this guy's leg wound asking, 'Where's the girl?' — what a triumph of police work. That's what I call justice."

"That's the theory I work on in *Hitman* where all the villains are

pretty much totally evil, and the same holds true in *Preacher*. Personally, I couldn't wait to see Tulip blow T.C. away or to have Jesse throttle the life out of Jody or Gran'ma burn to death. There was something very, very cathartic in all of that."

Ennis' tendency toward big confrontations leads to another of the constants in his work. Along with the unfailing loyalty of friends and the romantic elements, Ennis' works are steeped in violence, applied with a broad brush.

While the violence in Ennis' stories attract more fire from his critics than anything else, it does serve a purpose. "I use violence when I feel that it is appropriate, and, clearly, my idea of when it's appropriate is a lot more often than most people," Ennis said. "As for its portrayal, I prefer violence to look real, to look unpleasant, and to look like something we wouldn't like to have done to us or do to other people."

While it may sound as though he is, Ennis said he shies away from sending "messages" in his



"The appeal of these characters to me is that they allow you to cross a line that you couldn't with more upright characters."

— Garth Ennis

Witchblade and The Darkness' 'Family Ties' will be revealed this fall



By Matt Brady

Two powers were created before recorded time, each following its own unknown agenda and operating with its own unique set of rules. Each power has chosen its champion. The Witchblade chose Sara Pezzini, a tough, beautiful NYPD officer to be its wearer, and the two have had a tempestuous relationship since they were joined more than a year ago.

Meanwhile, in the same city but a world away, *The Darkness* was passed to Jackie Estacado, a talented Mafia hitman, on his 21st birthday, and for Jackie, business has never been better — or easier.

It was only a matter of time until they met, and that's just what's happened in the four-part "Family Ties" crossover running between the two series in October and November. The story begins with New York embroiled in a mob war between the Italian Mafia and the Japanese Yakuza, a war that Jackie helped instigate in *Witchblade* #10.

Using the mob war as a backdrop, both Sara and Jackie become aware of their respective powers tugging at them. With all the bloodshed in New York caused by the war, the weapons are itching to cause some of their own — by fighting their opposite number.

Along with the hatred their powers feel for each other, Sara and

Jackie share some wicked sexual tension, palpable since their first meeting. With that, the stage is set: a man and woman who are attracted to each other, who are on opposite sides of the law, each possessing a weapon that wants the other dead. Think of it as Quentin Tarantino's version of a mystical *Guiding Light*.

One thing that was revealed previously is that the Witchblade was created to destroy *The Darkness*, apparently at any cost. The two have met before, albeit briefly in *Witchblade* #10, and the seeds of hatred were sown between the current Witchblade gauntlet and Estacado.

"It's been hinted that there's a connection between the Witchblade gauntlet and *The Darkness* power," Top Cow Director of Creative Affairs Tim Hernandez said. "We've kind of kept things under wraps until now. There are some big surprises coming up, as the connection between the two powers gets examined, explored, and reacted to by the participants."

With both properties in serious negotiation for feature film projects and a *Witchblade* television series set to begin next fall (produced by Oliver Stone's Illusion Entertainment, no less), it's obvious that both characters have tremendous popular appeal.

That appeal, according to Hernandez, lies in the realistic approach that is taken in writing the charac-

ters. "Sara isn't your usual superhero," Hernandez said. "She's a regular police officer who's got this amazing power and really doesn't know what to do with it. At the core, she's a likable character, and people lean towards that. A lot of female readers love *Witchblade* because they can kind of relate to her. There aren't too many female characters out there to begin with, and even fewer who are regular, everyday people."

While not quite the same, Hernandez continued, the realistic appeal of Jackie attracts readers, as well. "While not too many people can relate to being a Mafia hitman, even though he's a killer, Jackie is a likable guy. And that's the secret to his appeal: Even though he's not necessarily a good guy, and many people would view him as a villain, he's still a likable villain."

Hernandez stressed that "Family Ties" will deliver for readers, leading to major changes for at least one of the characters.

"This isn't going to be another of those crossovers where the characters meet, fight each other, realize they're on the same side, and then join to fight some common enemy," Hernandez said. "These weapons hate each other with a capital H. This is going to have big effects on what we see in both series for the coming year."

Their unseen power

By Matt Brady

Villains have a hold on readers, just as much as they do on the heroes. Imagine comics without The Joker, Riddler, Two-Face, or The Penguin? Or what about Superman without Lex Luthor, Spider-Man without Doc Ock or The Vulture, or Captain America without The Red Skull?

"Villains define the heroes," *Iron Man* writer Kurt Busiek said. "You can always tell how good a hero is by the caliber of his villain. If the villain is complex and well thought out, you can bet the hero is, as well. The better defined the villains, the more people like them. But, then, if you have a likable villain, you've got to treat him with care. He's just as important as the hero to some readers."

No one recently, perhaps, has learned this lesson as thoroughly as Mark Waid, who killed Flash's Rogues Gallery in 1995's *Underworld Unleashed* #1.

"The message of *Underworld Unleashed* was 'out with the old, in with the new,'" Waid said. "The days of DC's villains not being taken seriously were over, and a new regime was beginning. That was the lofty goal. Sacrificing the Rogues seemed like the perfect symbol of that theme."

But for Waid, the realization of what he had done kicked in just after the script was approved. "I woke up the next morning and thought, 'Oh, my God, we did *what*?' " Waid said. "I clearly fell prey to the dark side of The Force and lost my mind for a short period of time. I just got swept up in this whole gestalt of what I was writing."

Moments after the Rogues' collective deaths hit the stands, the Internet lit up with angry flames directed at Waid, and postal mail followed about a week later. The message was clear — the Rogues Gallery had had more supporters out there than Waid had counted on.

"The messages on the Internet boards, while filled with such lovely sentiment as 'You moron, that was a stupid thing to do,' did represent a

general feeling that we had," Waid said. "Fortunately, we managed to turn a sow's ear into a silk purse, and we were able to use the premature death of the Rogues as the basis of 'Hell on Earth,' the *Flash* storyline that returned them to the land of the living and finished my and Brian Augustyn's run on writing the series for the time being. So at least I was able to make something out of my earlier blunder."

Needless to say, at the end of "Hell on Earth," the Rogues sneaked off, living to fight another day.

Along with Waid, Spider-Man Group Editor Ralph Macchio said he has found that the popular appeal of classic villains is something that can't be ignored. Since the ending of the Spider-clone saga last fall, Macchio has started a wholesale "villain reformation project," revamping, revitalizing, and in some cases, resurrecting classic Spider-Man villains.

"We got lots of letters, and, in truth, it was the first thing I wanted to do when I came on to the Spider titles," Macchio said. "For me, Spider-Man's villains are as much a part of the cast as Spider-Man himself and, lately, they'd been treated with a little less respect than they deserve. For example, Doc Ock was killed almost off panel? The Vulture was a young guy? I don't think so."

But, as Macchio said (hinting at a current Spider-Man storyline), sometimes villains can actually run their course and deserve their ultimate fate. "The one classic Spidey villain I don't intend to restore is Kraven," Macchio said. "Marc DeMatteis did the best story that could possibly be done in terms of exploring and expanding on the hatred between heroes and their villains. That hatred pushed the story to its logical conclusion, the death of the villain."

What's the appeal of these classic villains, none less than 25 years old?

"They're symbolic of a simpler time," Waid said, "a time in comics that still appeals to a larger portion of the older readers — clearly, because I still insist to this day that there's not a 15-year-old in the world that takes someone with the name Captain Cold seriously. But, by and large, they're a throwback to an earlier, less complicated day."

While classic villains can be returned to their former glory, these characters must be treated with care. Rejuvenate them, Waid suggested, but don't try to make them so cutting-edge that they're just as deadly as anyone out there. "To make them more deadly, more serious, and more of a threat to my mind corrupts them and makes them into something they're not," Waid said. "Frankly, part of what was going through my head with the Rogues was that it was best to bump them off while they were as we remember them than to let some jamook get hold of them and make them dark and gritty for the '90s. At least if they were dead, they'd be safe."

Macchio summed up the thoughts of those questioned. "In some strange way, we all care about these bad guys just as much as we do about the heroes. Just as we've learned that readers hate seeing the hero mistreated, we've all learned that you can't mistreat the villains, either."

work. "I couldn't really come out and say that I'm preaching an anti-violence message. All I'm saying is that I try to portray it as realistically as possible, because I feel that people should know exactly what it looks like, get an idea of what it feels like, and see the effects it has on people. Readers can draw their own messages from there."

"All in all, it's hard for me to make high moral claims for *Preacher* or my other works, because I'm aware that a really big section of my audience gets off on the hideous violence that occurs. There's a sizable portion of the audience that likes the 'good ol' boys' side of *Preacher* more than the sequences where Jesse and Tulip have five pages of pillow talk or where Cass and Jesse sit and talk at a bar. To me, both aspects of the series are equally important, but I can't deny one or ignore the other."

Perhaps due to the violence in his stories, Ennis constantly gets deluged with fan requests to do a story starring one of today's grittier heroes.

Fans can keep waiting. Citing little affection for American comics heroes, Ennis said he isn't too keen to write mainline heroes anytime soon. Saying that his characters have to have relevance to society, Ennis spoke of the ludicrousness of many of today's heroes.

Case in point: Batman. "Batman is the kind of character that you think is a good idea when you're about 16, and then you grow out of it. But when you think about it, here's a guy who's been driven slightly psychotic by the death of his parents and then uses his enormous wealth in a war against blue collar crime and the mentally ill, and who, because of his own twisted morality he has invented for himself, will not remove obvious killers from society permanently so they can go out and commit crimes again and again. I find the whole thing kind of wrong at its heart. It's getting into the realms of total fantasy and total irrelevance to society."

And it doesn't stop with Batman. "I could never see myself writing in all seriousness a character like Green Lantern. While he was in *Hitman*, we just ridiculed him for three issues. To me, Green Lantern is the epitome of the super-hero: a grown man in tights — a silly power, a silly attitude — who does silly things which are of no relevance to society."

"They'll all probably show up in *Hitman* some time, but we can

have some fun with them there, because Tommy has an everyman quality that anyone in the real world would have toward super-heroes. If a man in tights pops up in front of you, the first thing you'd think is, 'A man in tights?' It doesn't matter if he's seven feet tall and dressed as a bat, you're just going to think, 'My God, it's a grown man in tights with ears.'

"It isn't scary, it isn't awe-inspiring, and it doesn't make you think that these are gods come down to Earth. It would make you realize what sad shape the world is in."

Despite his misgivings about most mainline super-heroes, there is one Ennis said he could see himself writing some day: Metropolis' first citizen.

"Superman is a character I'd actually be interested in writing," Ennis said. "I really like the idea of what Superman's about, which in part is: An immigrant comes to America, feels great for what he's got, and decides to do his best for his country. There's a very iconic aspect to him that I would enjoy working with."

If you're thinking that Ennis is staying pretty busy, you're right. On the *Preacher* side of things, Ennis has a Cassidy one-shot coming out in December, drawn by Dillon, and a Starr planned for the spring of '98. Also, after a successful *Unknown Soldier* mini-series for Vertigo last year, Ennis said he looks forward to more war comics.

"What I'm really hoping to do is a Sgt. Rock story for DC: a really good, all-out, all-action war story," Ennis said. "I've also done a two-issue *Enemy Ace* story which is being drawn at the moment."

What about Ennis' baby? Will *Preacher* go on and on? "At the most, *Preacher* has another three years," Ennis said. "It's always been a finite story with a beginning, middle, and end. It wasn't designed to last forever. While the characters are very important, we can see that they are on a journey, and that journey has an end."

And for Ennis himself? "I hope pretty much where I am now with a lot more money, comfortably off enough so I only work when I want to," Ennis laughed.

"I'm not too far off that, because at the moment the work I'm doing is the work I want to do. I'm doing the stories I like to write with the characters I created. Yeah, an exaggerated version of where I am now — with a little more time to enjoy life and doing what I enjoy to do rather than what I have to do — would suit me just fine."



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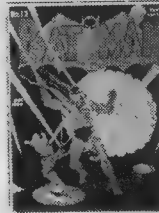
DC COMICS



Lot #1. Action Comics 42
Beautiful flying Superman cover. Bright colors and very minimal wear. Pages off-white to tan. 1st appearance of The Vigilante, Luthor story and art by Bailey and Fred Ray. Very impressive book overall. Graded FN/VF. O.B.\$250



Lot #2. Detective Comics 41
Sensational Golden Age Batman and Robin cover with first solo Robin story. This book is extremely flat with bright red and white cover gloss and nice pages. Trace of a light date mark barely noticed. Other than that, this is a real gem. Grades at FN+ - O.B.\$700



Lot #3. Batman 13
Cool parachute cover with Batman and Robin landing on bullseyes against a rich deep black background. This book would be a solid Very Fine except for a small piece of the cover near the spine (1/2 in. triangle) that has apparently torn off. Otherwise an exceptional copy. Also includes Jerry Siegel appearing in a Batman Story. FN+ - O.B.\$400



Lot #4. Batman 25
Dynamic Batcycle ring of fire cover. Mostly flat cover with minor wear. Pages tanning along edges but nice inside. Minor spine flaking and tiny tear and chip on back cover. Landmark first villain team-up with Joker and Penguin. Grades at FN. O.B.\$300



Lot #5. Batman 38
Excellent flying Penguin with flaming umbrella cover. Very tight book with extremely nice page quality. Loaded with great Bat-stories. There is a 5 in. sealed slit made with an Exacto knife on the left margin of the cover. Not obtrusive, but there. Top of spine has a tiny ding and one inside page exhibits a few tiny tears. Otherwise a very high end copy. We grade it a FN O.B.\$100



Lot #6. Superman 38
Superman reading a Batman comic in a barber's chair! This book contains an Atomic Bomb story from Jan. 1946 delayed due to Government censorship. Extremely bright yellow cover with off-white supple pages. Only a minuscule chip on lower right corner and two on back cover take off points from this beauty. Graded at FN+ - O.B.\$175



Lot #7. Danger Trail 3
Rarest 50's DC Comic! Bright colored cover with rich colors and supple cream pages. Nice looking copy with great eye appeal. Only defect is a 1/2 in. tear at top of cover near the spine. Overstreet need not apply. Call it a solid FN. O.B.\$400



Lot #8. Mystery in Space 1
The top rated 1950's DC Science Fiction comic. Real tough to find in high grade due to the all black space background cover. Excellent 8 page Frazetta interior art. Slight wear near spine with tear seal at lower margin. Pages are nice off-white. Tiny chip off top left spine. Overall decent attractive copy. Conservative VG. O.B.\$200

L.B. COLE COMICS



Lot #9. Suspense Comics 9
Hypnotizing L.B. Cole classic eyeball cover. Tight flat cover with bright colors. Minor ding at the top of spine with slight staple rust and small stress lines at staples. Tremendous eye appeal with some great stories inside too! Graded at FN- O.B.\$250



Lot #10. Suspense Comics 10
Another spellbinding L.B. Cole gem. Bright red dazzling cover with hands coming from everywhere toward the prize emerald. Minor wear along spine with tiny tears at staples. Color flake off near bottom edge extending a small tear (1/2 cm). Still a very solid book with top art inside by Albright, Larsen, Palais and Appel. Grade VG. O.B.\$150



Lot #11. Suspense Comics 12
Dramatic and haunting L.B. Cole classic hanging cover. Brilliant color and creamy pages with only minimal wear. Two small stress tears at staples and minor flaking at top and bottom of spine. Very solid and tight copy. Only 11 to 20 copies are estimated to be in existence! Impressive FN. O.B.\$350



Lot #12. Great Comics 1
Beautiful underwater cover by L.B. Cole. Tight copy with minor wear at spine. Back cover has one light crease margin and a tiny tear. Pages are cream to tan. Overall a nice solid copy with good eye appeal. We'll call it a VG/FN. O.B.\$50



Lot #13. Power Comics 4
Stunning L.B. Cole spread eagle cover. Tight flat book with cream pages. Small chip out of top left corner cover (1/2 cm x 1/2 cm). Rounding corners with 2 minor chips. Small name on cover. Overall an attractive book with great interior stories and artwork. We grade it a VG. O.B.\$100

GOLDEN AGE COMICS



Lot #14. Atomic Comics 1
Classic Fang Gow cover swipe from Detective Comics. Sharp copy with great Siegel and Shuster stories. Book has a slight wrinkle otherwise no flaws. Very tight and clean copy with tremendous eye appeal. Call it a FN+ - O.B.\$200



Lot #15. Black Terror 17
Awesome Schomburg bondage cover with girl about to be suspended in transparent plastic! Very solid, flat and square book with above average page quality and above average interior stories and artwork. Barely visible tiny foxing marks at bottom are the only defects. Grades in at FN/VF. O.B.\$100



Lot #16. Famous Funnies 212
Try and find any of this Frazetta run in high grade. Nicest copy that we've seen especially with stark black cover, one of Frazetta's best. Pages are cream to tan otherwise much higher grade. Cover exhibits hardly any wear at all. They don't come this nice in the real world. We call it a VF- O.B.\$300



Lot #17. Fantastic Comics 2
Scarce Lou Fine cover. 8 in. Gerber! Incredibly tight and flat copy with cream pages. Overall, this book is very solid and shows only minimal wear. These Foxes are red hot and hard to find especially in higher grade. Grades in at FN/VF. O.B.\$500



Lot #18. Hit Comics 9
Killer Lou Fine Red Bee cover exemplify of Fine's dynamic flair for the human anatomy with almost an animated feel. High gloss covers with minor wear interior of spine appears to have been repaired to keep covers intact. Still a solid copy with amazing and diverse stories ranging from mystery to Sci-Fi. Great eye appeal and nice pages. Have to call it a VG. O.B.\$200



Lot #19. Dark Mysteries 1
Awesome Wally Wood cover art on tough to find first issue. Ultra-flat tight book with cream to tan pages. Tiny tear, 1/2 cm at bottom of spine with interior cover tanning. Excellent eye appeal. We grade it FN+ - O.B.\$150



Lot #20. Captain Science 1
Parlays a tough first issue with a gorgeous Walter Johnson cover. Johnson's work is much under-rated, but becoming highly sought after. Interior has Johnson and Wood art. Book has no major defects with just minimal wear. Graded at FN O.B.\$100



Lot #21. Meteor Comics 1
Rich colored purple and yellow cover accents this very scarce book. Flat copy with tremendous eye appeal. Pages are off-white to cream. Minimal tear on back cover that extends into 3 back pages. A solid glossy book with only minimal wear. FN+ - O.B.\$125



Lot #22. Sub-Mariner 13
One of Schomburg's best covers from this time period. The classic snake coiled around the blonde victim with the hooded Japanese flagged menaces terrorizing her with everything from a flaming torch to a hatchet! Sub-Mariner doesn't have a chance. Two tears from the solo staple to the back cover. Great gloss and equally nice pages on this tight flat beautiful copy. Conservatively graded at FN. O.B.\$250



Lot #23. Slave Girl 2: Great
Larsen art, browning in 2 spots. VG. O.B.\$40



Lot #24. Blackhawk 43:
Fabulous Crandall cover, solid FN. O.B.\$35



Lot #25. Future World 2:
Kiefer cover, obscure book. FN- O.B.\$30



Lot #26. Fight Against Crime 15:
Used in POP, gruesome stuff. Attractive FN/VF. O.B.\$60



Lot #27. Ghost Comics 7:
Fantastic lab good girl cover. Color flake off-c. FN+ - O.B.\$40



Lot #28. Fantastic Fears 7 (1):
Excellent #1 horror issue. Tiny tear. Glossy FN+ - O.B.\$70



Lot #29. Modern Comics 81:
Nice Crandall cover, Torchy by Ward. FN/VF. O.B.\$50



Lot #30. Hit Comics 59:
Tremendous book, solid VF. O.B.\$45



Lot #31. Dynamic Comics 15:
Nice Chesler, solid VG. O.B.\$50



Lot #32. Nightmare 3 (St. John):
Great painted cover, good looking FN. O.B.\$50



Lot #33. Pep 40:
Nice WWII cover by Sahle, great interior Fuje art. VG. O.B.\$35



Lot #34. Piracy 1:
Great Wood c/a and Williamson art. Nice FN+ - O.B.\$50



Lot #35. Rex the Wonder Dog 9:
Scarce DC, inside cover tan, pages nice. FN+ - O.B.\$60



Lot #36. Select Detective 1:
Nice 1st issue with Baker art. Solid FN+ - O.B.\$35

Evil Ernie: Hoping to achieve Megadeath

'CBG' classifieds lead to ongoing series, movie, video game — and skateboard

By Rob Samsel

Evil Ernie, the brainchild of writer Brian Pulido and artist Steven Hughes, is set to go on his biggest comics rampage ever, according to them. Evil Ernie: Destroyer, a nine-issue mini-series that's currently heading to comic-shop shelves, promises to be Ernie's most brutal adventure to date. What makes Evil Ernie tick? CBG checked in with Ernie's creator, Brian Pulido, to find out the real deal.

CBG: What makes Evil Ernie such a bad dude?

Pulido: First and foremost, from *Evil Ernie: Destroyer* and beyond, we're not making any excuses for what Evil Ernie is. Evil Ernie is a horror character in a horror comic book that tends to be ultra-violent and apocalyptic. He's an undead, teen-age psychopath on adrenaline, on an apocalyptic tear, hoping to destroy everything he can.

CBG: Where did Evil Ernie begin?

Pulido: Evil Ernie began almost 10 years ago. I was at a Megadeth concert, and I had this idea of a teen-age Frankenstein. I had seen all these stories in my life of adults preying on kids, and I got the idea to simply reverse the formula. I tried to figure out what would be the only thing that would scare people the most, and I was in the pit at this concert and realized it was us. We make no apologies as for who Evil Ernie is; he's basically everybody's worst nightmares rolled in one and times a thousand.

Evil Ernie originally started out as a screenplay. After meeting with a number of film producers, I realized they were going to simply pay me off, and I would

have no input or connection to the character any more. I figured I wanted him around in my life a little longer.

I went to another love of mine, which was comics. So, I took an ad out in *CBG's* classifieds, and the 72nd guy to reply was this guy who inked over Steven Hughes' pencils. I thought Steven's work was pretty cool, so I met him, and, using my designs, we launched *Evil Ernie: Youth Gone Wild*, in December 1991.

Ernie's mission in life is Megadeath — which is simply the death of all life on Earth — so he can have the love of his life, Lady Death. These days, storywise, Ernie's killed most of the East Coast, which is about 90 million undead, but there's this big wall from New Orleans into Canada called the Mississippi Wall, which prevents the dead from crossing. Evil Ernie controls the dead telepathically, so he's got all these dead people out there doing his dirty work for him.

CBG: Where's Evil Ernie heading in *Evil Ernie: Destroyer*?

Pulido: *Evil Ernie: Destroyer* deals with the rage he's been feeling now that Lady Death appears to be lost to him forever. He figures the only way he can cure this "problem" is by starting World War III. This story is his quest, and what's freaky about this quest is that he just might get his way. This is also a story about love, passion, and remorse. The co-star is Smiley, The Psychotic Button, who gets all the funny lines while Evil Ernie gets no funny lines. He has no sense of humor in this mini-series, in fact he's very enraged and angst-ridden.

The mini-series also stars Chastity, who's very much in love with Evil Ernie. He still pines for Lady Death, but he does view Chastity as a fun girl to knock around with. We will explore this quest very deeply, and by around the seventh issue or so, something big may happen. Is it the start of World War III? Who knows? I'm not saying.

What will happen after this is that Ernie will be getting an ongoing series beginning in June, that will be ongoing through 2000. I'll be writing that with Phillip Nutman. I'm not set in terms of who's going to handle the artwork, but I'd like to eventually have Kyle Hotz back after he catches his breath after *De-*

stroyer. These monthly series will help make it easier for the retailers to figure out our publishing schedule, as well as make it easier for the Chaos! fan to get their Chaos!

In other areas, we've been in discussion for an Evil Ernie motion picture for about four months now. I can tell you no

more, no less, but only that it will be occurring, probably by October 1999. We're not talking animation nor some dinky production; we're talking a very magnificent thing. And we have an Evil Ernie skateboard coming from Santa Cruz, as well as an Evil Ernie video game in development.

Bad guys rule! Well, at least for a week at DC

By Matt Brady

For 51 weeks of the year, the DC good guys get all the attention in title after title starring heroes trouncing villains.

On Dec. 31, things will change.

Ushering in the New Year with a dash of evil, all titles set in the DC universe will suspend shipping for the final week of 1997 to allow for eight New Year's evil villain specials to get their fair share of spotlight.

Along with giving established villains a chance in the spotlight, DC's "Villains Week" will also serve to introduce two new villains: Prometheus, the major new JLA nemesis, and Gog, the major villain of next year's ongoing *Kingdom* series who threatens to bring the world seen in *Kingdom Come* to become DC's reality.

The New Year's Evil specials are:

- *Prometheus* #1 is written by Grant Morrison with art by Arnie Jorgensen and David Meikis. "Prometheus is basically the other side's version of Batman," Morrison said. "He's had years to study, prepare, and train for his eventual confrontation with the JLA and, when he finally gets to fight them, he makes pretty short work of them all. The special shows how he got that way." The story sets the stage for Prometheus to take over the JLA Watchtower starting in issue #16.

- *Mr. Mxyzptlk* #1 is by Alan Grant, Tom Morgan, and Scott Koblish. He's back! This time, Mxy's out to bug everybody except The Man of Steel, as the imp from the 5th Dimension looks through his comic-book collection and brings some very big problems to life.

- *Darkseid* #1 is written by John Byrne with art by Keron Grant, and Sal Buscema. In an unofficial epilogue to Byrne's *Genesis* mini-series, Darkseid strikes out from The Source Wall, forcing the armies of Apokolips, who're all busy fighting for control of Apokolips, to obey his commands and carry out his deadly agenda of revenge.

- *Gog* #1, written by Mark Waid with art by Jerry Ordway and Dennis Janke, sets the stage for ongoing *Kingdom Come* continuity. "In Broadway terms, *Gog* is the overture to *Kingdom*," Waid said. "It sets the stage for events

in *Kingdom* and creates a link between the future seen in *Kingdom Come* and *Kingdom* which will be set in the present-day DC universe. Gog will be responsible for the creation of Magog, the hero who took Superman's place when he went away."

- *Dark Nemesis* #1 is by Dan Jurgens, CrissCross, and Wade Von Grawbadger. Axis, Scorcher, Vault, Carom, and Blizzard — the flip side of the Teen Titans, the bad guys who've handed the Titans their heads on more than one occasion — have endured everything. But can they fight against the internal conflicts that threaten to tear the team apart, when Scorcher starts to develop a psychic link to the Titans' Risk?

- *Body Doubles* #1 by Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, Joe Phillips, and Jasen Rodriguez. Bobby and Carmen, the killers-for-hire from the pages of *Resurrection Man*, get their own one-shot in a story that pits the duo against a virtual army of assassins in a winner-take-all competition to collect a major bounty. The downside? They have to survive against Deadshot, Merlin, and Deadline: something that many others have tried to do — and failed.

- *The Rogues* #1 is by Brian Augustyn, Ron Wagner, and Bill Reinhold. The recently resurrected Rogues Gallery (The Trickster, Captain Cold, Heat Wave, Captain Boomerang, Weather Wizard, Mirror Master, and Piper) from the pages of *The Flash* are on a mission in the Himalayas to protect an 11-year old American boy who's the new prophet of an ancient sect. However, someone who's waiting for them at the top of the world may just be the death of them all — and this time, their death just might stick.

- *Scarecrow* #1 is by Peter Milligan and Duncan Fegredo. The Scarecrow's fear-inducing methods have seemed to be on the wane lately and were most recently shut down by Nightwing. This time around, Scarecrow is out to conquer his toughest challenge yet: an innocent law student who is somehow unaffected by his techniques. But will going all-out scare the Scarecrow himself beyond the realm of sanity?

Each *New Year's Evil* title is 32 pages and retails for \$1.95.



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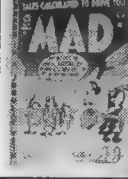
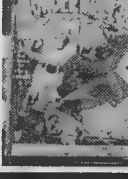
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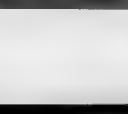
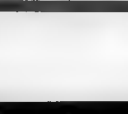
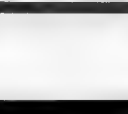
GOLDEN AGE COMICS

 Lot #1: All-American 29 F sm pc glued back into place bc. Came from Sotheby's earlier this year, sl foxing on edge of pgs. MB \$50	 Lot #2: Real Life 3 G/VG sm pc out btm sp. Smaller than a dime. March 1942 story about Hitler's life and rule over Germany, seen at a time when he was still in power. 15 pgs. MB \$50	 Lot #3: Fawcett Movie Comic 15 Man From Planet X to up & down spine. Creamy pages 1952. Very difficult to locate. Overall G/VG. Great cvr image. MB \$50	 Lot #4: Human Torch 18 Erasure marks on top of cvr. General wear makes it a G/VG. Schomburg cover art with General MacArthur on cvr. MB \$50	 Lot #5: Blue Beetle 21 8 in Gerber. Actually this book is not pictured in the Photo Journal at all. General wear and sl stains to fc keep this book from being better than a VG. MB \$20	 Lot #6: Keen Detective Funnies 27, 2/11 and Amazing Mystery Funnies 21 All have split spines and are brittle. (2/7 is an 8" in Gerber). Nice cvr images though. 3 Centaurs from 1939 and 1940 with a MB of only \$20
 Lot #7: Exciting 49 Brilliant colors. Writing in pencil on bc. Crease on fc that does not break color. Dust shadow top of cvr. Looks F/VF at first glance but actually grades a VG+. MB \$20	 Lot #8: Mystic 7 Very scarce and very cool book. Great story too. Mystic is one of the most sought after Timely titles. This is a VF looking unrestored copy with one problem. Middle rgt edge has a mouse chew about 1 1/2 inches on the edge. It goes into the book about 1/4 of an inch. The chew goes down anywhere from 1 pg to halfway in the book. This book looks awesome and so much better than it sounds. MB \$200	 Lot #9: Silver Streak 6 1st App. of Daredevil. Jack Cole cvr, as if you didn't know. One of the greatest covers ever. Heavy restoration. Foxing on cvr apparent F. MB \$400	 Lot #10: Marvel Mystery 14 Dec 1940 Logo is white. sm. 1/2 inch chip out of spine. Does not affect cvr image which is very cool. Overall an attractive looking G/VG. MB \$100	 Lot #11: Marvel Mystery 18 April 1941 No surface wear. Only slight wear to spine resulting in 1/4" ss btm btm st. rusty. Overall F. Looks much better. MB \$150	 Lot #12: Marvel Mystery 83 sl spine wear. NOC in pencil to rgt. Overall F. MB \$100
 Lot #13: Exciting 58 Schomburg Airbrushed cvr. sl. spine roll with very minimal wear to spine. cr on fc that does not break color. Overall VG/F. MB \$50	 Lot #14: Cat-Man 20 Hitter cvr. cvr detached. Spine split 3" top. 1"x1/4" chip out top sp. but included. Good image. Overall Fa+. MB \$50	 Lot #15: Feature 29 App. VF ss sealed. 3rd app. Doll Man. Clear flat attractive looking book. MB \$75	 Lot #16: Speed 14 Complete ss. bc still attached to interior. 4 sm chips out of fc on spine. Nazi torture cvr on this 100 pg. digest size rarity from WWII. Overall Fa+. MB \$10	 Lot #17: Speed 32 Cvr detached. Cool Schomburg Nazi war cvr. 1" ss btm. sm to pull. Diagonal 2"x1 1/2" pc out bc on btm corners. Overall G/G+ with G/VG appearance. MB \$10	 Lot #18: Speed 33 Cvr detached. Schomburg Jpn war cvr. sm 1"x1/2" pc out bc by btm sp. Overall G/VG. MB \$20
 Lot #19: Captain Midnight 15 VF/NM Penn copy. Off-white pgs. MB \$100	 Lot #20: Captain America 30 Practically no surface wear. Vibrant colors. Top and btm corners on sp. severely blunted. VF/NM w/o blunted corners. Overall VG/F. Looks superior to a VG/F. MB \$100	 Lot #21: Sub-Mariner 18 Tp on sp. 1 1/2"x1/4" pc out top rgt cvr. Underwater Schomburg cvr. Overall G/VG. MB \$50	 Lot #22: Sub-Mariner 40 "Sub-Mariner Defines the Comics" Overall F off-white pgs. Just some general wear. MB \$50	 Lot #23: Detective Comics 124 "D" copy 1/4" tr btm cvr. Dust shadow right edge. Overall F/VF Joker cover. MB \$100	 Lot #24: Captain Aero 17 LB Cole cvr. The 1st LB Cole cvr in Capt. Aero and one of the best. 1/4" ss btm nice colors. VG. MB \$20
 Lot #25: Cat-Man 21 Nov. 1943. 1" tr btm st. not attached to interior. Very cool LB Cole cover Overall G/G+. MB \$50	 Lot #26: Cat-Man 28 Lots of spine wear top st. not attached to interior. Very cool LB Cole cover Overall G/G+. MB \$50	 Lot #27: Flash 9 Spine has soot from smoke damage. Slight wear on edges of cvr. Colors on cvr not affected by smoke damage. Shelly Moldoff did some unreal work in his Hawkman stories and cvrs. Overall VG. MB \$100	 Lot #28: Adventures of Bob Hope 1 Don't see this book too often. Tanning on edges. "M" in grease pencil on bc. Sl. glue to tr rgt chips put back in 1/4" tr fc + 1st few pages. Overall a F. MB \$50	 Lot #29: Mad 9 VG+ 2 lgt creases on fc from Christie's. MB \$20	 Lot #30: Mad 13 VG/F from Christie's. MB \$20
 Lot #31: Mad 11 VG/F from Christie's. MB \$20	 Lot #32: Mad 20 F+ from Christie's. MB \$20	 Lot #33: Amazing Mystery Funnies Vol 2 12 F Lots 33-36, 38 and #8 are from an original owner collection that surfaced in mid-September in Conn. All books are unrestored and have brilliant colors and gloss. Listed as scarce in guide, from 1939. Wolverton's 1st Space Patrol. Attractive untouched copy of a difficult book. MB \$200	 Lot #34: Science Comics 2 F Everyone loves #1, but have you looked at #2, woman in bondage in a tube!!! 7 in Gerber. Not offered for sale often. MB \$150	 Lot #35: Science Comics 4 VG The color red takes on a new definition with the bright color on this book. From 1940 Kirby artwork. These early Fox books are very undervalued for their content, excellent covers and rarity, particularly rare untouched. MB \$100	 Lot #36: Wonderworld 5 F 3rd app. of the Flame. Story about Navy fighting natives on island, later find that island is Hawaii. Hawaii was not a state yet. Early Wonderworlds are some of the most sought after Fox issues around. 7 in Gerber. MB \$150
 Lot #37: Wonderworld 10 1 1/2" ss top. ss from btm to btm st. Long cr on cvr that does not break color. Color is vibrant. Feb. 1940. Overall G/VG. MB \$50	 Lot #38: Wonderworld 12 F+ What a great Sci-fi cover. Deep rich colors on this 1940 book. One of the last truly memorable covers in the run. MB \$100				

ROMANCE COMICS

 Lot #39: DC 100 pg. SS 5 VF The rarest book from the 70s bright colors. Would be NM/M but slight wear to bc. wp. MB \$75	 Lot #40: Young Love 107 VG. MB \$10	 Lot #41: Young Love 109 VG-. MB \$10	 Lot #42: Young Love 112 VF. MB \$20	 Lot #43: Young Romance 203 VG/F. MB \$10	 Lot #44: Chini 1 VF Hard to find Marvel #1. MB \$10
 Lot #45: Young Love 121 NM/M but bad ding on bottom right so VG/F. Just as hard to find as the 100 pages. MB \$10	 Lot #46: Young Love 18 1957 Elvis photo cvr. "Biography of Elvis" Tough to locate issue. Solid G+. MB \$20				

1970's COMICS

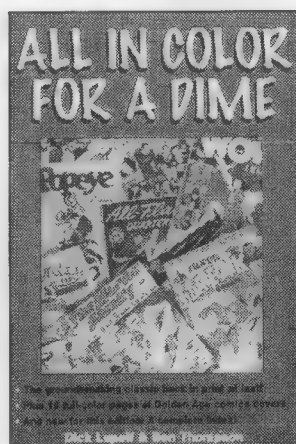
 Lot #47: Corebus 1 NM/M counterfeit copy. Real ones sell for \$500 to \$700. MB \$10	 Lot #48: Three Musketeers 1 F/VF. MB \$10	 Lot #49: Laurel and Hardy 1 F Hard to locate. MB \$10	 Lot #50: Star Wars 1.5 copies all NM/M. MB \$50	 Lot #51: Star Wars 1 1 copy NM/M. MB \$10	 Lot #52: Batman 234 1st app. SA Two-Face Neal Adams VF. MB \$20
 Lot #53: Dark Mansion of Forbidden Love 1 F/VF. MB \$10	 Lot #54: Weird War Tales 1 NM. MB \$20	 Lot #55: Hot Wheels 1 NM but crease on btm right 1" so VG/F. MB \$5	 Lot #56: Super DC Giant S-16 B+ B VF. MB \$5		



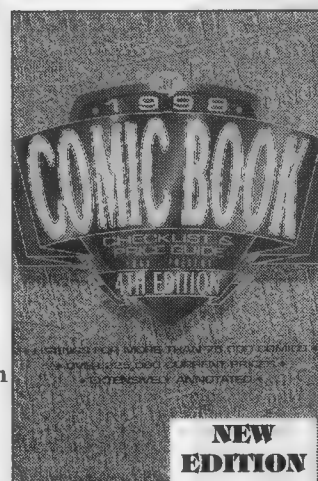
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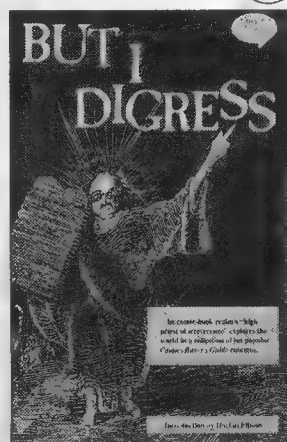
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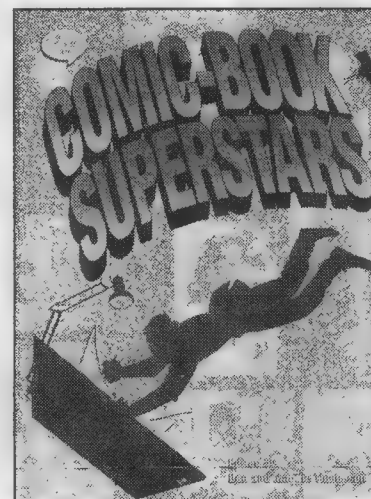
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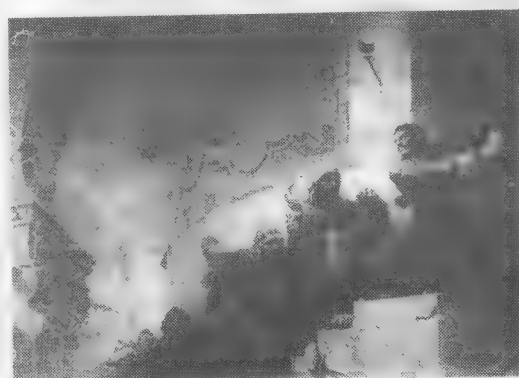
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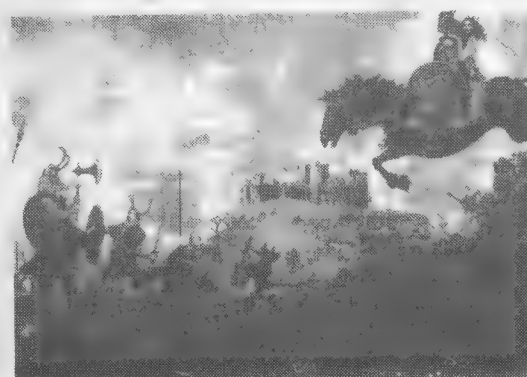
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It's possible to assume that a vampire, a bloodsucking creature of the undead, would be able to make a mark in the "Bad Dude" category just by his very existence, but Southie of *Deadbeats* is much worse than any average, run-of-the-mill vampire.

In life, Southie was Michael-Evan Southland, the only child of the mayor of Mystic Grove, Conn., the small town that serves as the setting for Claypool's "Fear City" line of comics.

In the opening pages of *Deadbeats*, Southie commits two bloody and brutal murders. As the story progresses, the reader learns more about the anger that drives the young man and compels him to inflict such violence and victimization on hapless innocents. It's more than the vampire curse — and that's by design.

Deadbeats writer and penciller Richard Howell said, "Each of the vampire characters in *Deadbeats* has the abilities and the needs of your average vamp characters, but they each have very different personalities, and that affects how they go about their bloody business." Indeed, the parade of the undead in the five-year-old series includes the cocky Dodger, the sly Martine, the vicious Colleen, and the contemplative, blood-celibate Hermano, who bills himself King of All Vampires. Some vampires are in control of their individual nutritional needs, and some become rapacious, almost mindless monsters.

Within that context, each of them expresses a clear personal agenda, and Southie's is the most

dramatic. As the series progresses, Southie drains and kills Brittany Bove, a local teen-queen, who then becomes his vampire consort. Since Brittany's memories of her life are incomplete (and she can't remember that her lover is also her murderer), she is his perfect confidant, and her newfound loving, accepting nature inspires him to share with her (and with the reader) the tale of which forces went into making him a monster — even before he became a vampire.

Southie's story includes a codling mother and a sullen, distant father who treated his son with dismissive contempt, when he wasn't exploding in unexplained rages. Eventually, the mayor's bursts of anger resulted in the addition of physical abuse to the mix, along with the emotional mistreatment. This turned young Southie into more of a damage case than ever before, and it began the amassment of the boy's own bank of destructive anger.

Howell said, "I wanted to make sure that Southie's rage had its basis in a fundament of pain that was very vivid and accessible to the reader. I wasn't interested in writing a one-dimensional monster, and I assumed nobody would be interested in reading about one, either."

Various pieces of Southie's story have come out in *Deadbeats* thus far, but the full picture is painted in #26's "The Southland Family Saga," the first of the series' single-themed issues. This story takes in the full scope of Southie's monstrous state, both as a predatory abuser and as an abuse victim.

"I take some comfort in stating that every single one of the incidents in Southie's terrible life is entirely fictional," Howell said, laughing. "None of what went into his life happened to me. I am not Southie: not the damage, not the rage, not the stance, not the attitude — nothing! I like his hair, though."

Southie's anger at his family situation and his feelings of helplessness result in his victimizing and abusing others in turn. "He's what professional psychiatrists have classified as 'One Sick Puppy,'" Howell added. "He has a childhood friend who gets on his bad side by knowing too much about the Southland family, and Southie goes on a campaign to make the friend as miserable as



he is. He does this through the young lady whom the friend admires, and the cruelty of this revenge is a luridly impressive indication of just how twisted Southie's become. It also successfully establishes a context for a boy who'd later come to view all of humanity as mice to be played with.

"I knew I was doing my job well, because, as the story went on, I kept feeling more and more unclear. Southie has his own ideas on how to attack an enemy, and they're very much related to his own vulnerabilities: his self-worth, his manhood, his independence. He's really a mess, but a deadly, dangerous one. He has no regard at all for anyone's life, or sensibilities — except for his mother's and Brittany's. Sadly, a brief encounter with her newly-vampirized son sent the mother off to the Manderley Mental Institution, and his own actions resulted in Brittany being killed and transformed into an undead creature like himself — not exactly the master of successful relationships."

Several issues ago, Southie and Brittany staged their own impromptu wedding ceremony and proceeded from there to declare themselves beholden to either humanity or the rest of the

vampire population. The newlyweds have been "honeymooning" for the last three issues, but they re-enter the story as Southie is caught stealing athletic trophies from Mystic Grove High School — the trophies that he won for the school when he was alive. These are added to his collection of mementos back at his and Brittany's abode, and that starts a stream of corrosive memories of Southie's former life.

At the story's conclusion, the reader gets two surprises, one of which explains a lot of what's gone on in the Southland family and another one which will have a large impact on storylines to come.

Maybe the most frightening aspect of Southie is that he's oddly understandable. He's horrible and vicious, yet also a poignant, sad figure. Despite the amount of harm he can — and does — do, there's a shade of tragedy about him. He's wild and dangerous, but certainly not unmotivated.

"Southie is probably the most popular single character in the series," said Howell, "and I think that that's because he gives readers both sides of what they want; the thrill of reveling in his Bad Dude devilry and the satisfaction of extending compassion to a Lost Soul."

Hand-in-glove with Elvira

WANTED:
BAD
DUDES
HEROES NEED
NOT APPLY



Elvira, Mistress of Grammar

"Elvira is aghast each and every time she's lumped in with the 'Bad Girls' trend."

— Richard Howell

By Richard Howell
Claypool editor

Picture this: Once a week, you're stumbling into your office and the phone rings. You reach out and pick up the receiver, and a purring, seductive voice comes over the wire.

"Hello, darling," it says. "This is Elvira. Do you have a minute for me?"

Yep, that happens to me. My answer: Of course I do. I always do. It's my job.

That's right. I'm the editor of the *Elvira* comic-book series from Claypool Comics, and it's part of the protocol for me to confer weekly with The Mistress of the Dark herself on the contents of upcoming issues. Sometimes she'll call from her trailer on the set of some movie or TV project. Sometimes she'll be on the horn from her Macabre-Mobile, tooling down the Pacific Coast Highway. The amazing thing is that she can always spare the time to check in on her comic-book licensee, Claypool.

We've been collaborating with Elvira for more than five years now, resulting in more than 50 issues (so far) of the loopy laugh-riot that's known as *Elvira Mistress of the Dark*. Part of the process involves getting Elvira's personal stamp of approval on each and every plot, piece of patter, and pulchritudinous panel. She's involved, in other words.

Usually, the process starts when one of us in the trenches (that includes me, regular writer Frank Strom, and our assortment of guest-scripters, like Kurt Busiek, Jo Duffy, or Paul Dini) gets the germ of an idea of what would make a knee-slapper of an adventure for Elvira. I check in with Elvira herself and — wouldn't you

know it? — in every single instance so far the new plot is a doppelganger of an adventure she's just recently had. I suspect some sort of cosmic psychic link is at work here, so it's really fortunate that we have the Elvira license. This particular cosmic link would be useless to us, otherwise.

Anyway, from that point, the plot is developed into a workable breakdown to be sent to an artist — and there's an embarrassment of riches in that department, too. Past and current *Elvira* artists include Neil Vokes, James W. Fry III, Tod Smith, Terry Austin, Dan Day, Dan Spiegle, Frank Springer, John Heebink, Tom Simonton, and Louis Lachance. They take the written word and translate it into a series of amusing pages which are then lettered, inked, and shipped (or faxed) to Elvira to approve. Once she's satisfied, another issue of *Elvira* is a "go." It's a big responsibility, but someone has to handle it.

Over the past 50-plus issues, Elvira's sashayed through some of the wildest adventures that have ever appeared in comics. She's helped a lustful teen-age werewolf cope with his curse, defeated a demented phantom who was out to destroy soap operas, battled back a child-version knock-off of herself, formed a galactic girl-group and been shot into outer space, helped out in a class-action suit against the creatures of Monster Island, become a governess in an accused house, taken side trips to Gorilla Town, the canned city of Cam-Bell, and majestic Glamazon Island, emceed at an unholy Battle of the Bands, and much, much more.

There's no venue that's too way-out for Elvira and nothing upon which she can't put her own personal stamp — from professional



wrestling to fashion modelling to doing animation voices to playing host of "Name that Bad Movie" at horror conventions to subbing for an ailing Santa Claus and delivering gifts to her arch-enemies. Oh, and there has never, ever been a comics story quite as out-of-control as #43's "Night of the Living Fruity Faces," a gonzo combination of elements from *Night of the Living Dead* and those old Funny Face juice drinks.

In fact, the only restriction Claypool has on Elvira storylines is that we have to present Elvira faithfully, as her skewed-but-wholesome real self. Despite her quirky hair-and-makeup ideas and considerable displays of décolletage and leg, Elvira is as laudable as she is lovely. She's spilling over with goodness and virtue (just ask her) and is aghast each and every time she's lumped in with the "Bad Girls" trend.

Just because a girl solves some of her problems with her great-aunt's spell book or by calling in some favors from the likes of Dracula or with the help of her shape-changing demon familiar (named Bela) doesn't mean that she isn't the type of woman your parents wouldn't love for you to know. Elvira is a stand-up gal, and that's for sure. In an upcoming issue book-lengthier ("Role Models" in #54), The Mistress of the Dark confronts her misapplied "Bad Girl" status by going nose to, uh, nose with such bonafide nasties as Lady Moribund, the vampire biker-babe gang called The Tramps, and dismo-rocker Polly Sirene.

Elvira says she thinks of herself as a kind of role model. She describes the Elvira image as "something different for everyone." For children, she's sort of slapstick and goofy. The grown-ups enjoy the the

double entendres and sexy attitude that goes right over children's heads. Males appreciate her as a sex symbol and females love her take-charge attitude. She's universally appealing: a black-satin-clad goodwill ambassador.

What's ahead for Elvira? It's difficult to predict where her unpredictable life will take her next, but it seems likely that a rematch with her arch-enemy Skelloween is inevitable. (After all, Skel fancies himself the eternal symbol of Halloween and he's royally ticked that Elvira's been muscling in on his turf.) Also, sooner or later Elvira's got to sell that white elephant of a haunted house she owns, and I suspect the buyer will be an amusing surprise to everyone. Not only that, but there are the reports of the immortal South American bandit queen who's supposed to be a dead ringer for Elvira; the continual plotting against Elvira by the maniacal station manager Rosalind Wyck (of K-WHA? TV) and rival horror-host Spooky Suzie; and the long-rumored meeting of Elvira with the two vicious vampiresses from Claypool's *Deadbeats* series.

I think I can state with some assurance that Elvira's fondest hope in having her own comics series is to present her and her exciting life accurately and with as much accuracy and joy as she approaches every day herself.

That's what we strive for here at Claypool: for fun, accurate, audacious concepts and attractiveness of visuals. Speaking as the guy who's responsible for making all that happen, I strive every day to produce successful, satisfying issues each and every time.

After all, if it's a particularly satisfactory issue, I'll hear about it from Elvira herself. Talk about motivation.



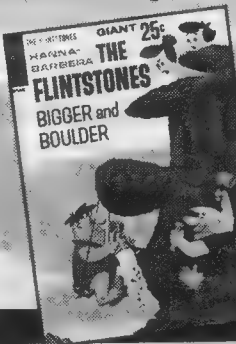
Claypool Director of Marketing David Seidman made a guest appearance in an issue of *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark*, when the horror hostess made her own appearance at a comics convention.

DIAMOND

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#10 VF/NF +	\$50	#53 NM	\$35	#82 FN	\$20	#123 NM	\$24	#50 FN	\$20	#92 VF/NF +	\$25
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						#47-GL VF +	\$40	#193 NM	\$40	#193 NM	\$80
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42 VG.....15.00	26 VG.....50.00	ATOM AGE COMBAT	Virtue of Vera Valiant
48 Sub Crease.....10.00	30 VG+.....12.00	4 GD.....20.00	NM.....20.00
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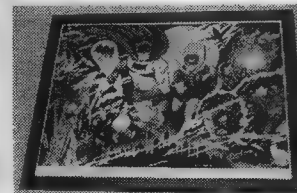
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Epic Illustrated \$2 ea.	11. Making of "Spawn the Movie" book \$10
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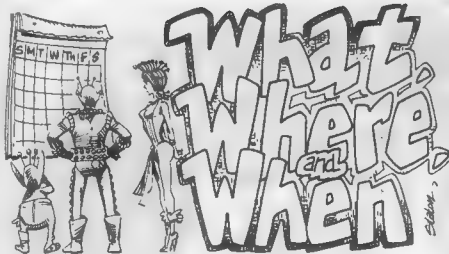
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ARIZONA

Oct 31-Nov 2 AZ, Scottsdale. Star Warz Convention, Safari Resort Con-
vention Ctr. 4611 N. Scottsdale Rd., SH: Fri. 12noon-9pm, Sat.
10am-8pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T. 100, F. \$250, A. \$45. 3 day pass,
\$20, one day pass. Michael Sandberg, 5930-10 W. Greenway, Suite
115, Glendale, AZ 85306. PH: 602-978-5339.

ARKANSAS

Nov 21-23 AR, Rogers. 15th Annual Winter Show, Dixieland Mall. SH:
Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T. 40, F. \$75, for 1, \$140,
for 2, A: free. Tim Belk, 2811 Joplin, Joplin, MO 64804. PH: 417-
781-4422.

CALIFORNIA

Oct 22 CA, Walnut. Step Above Cardwon Show, Holiday Inn Express.
Pomona Fwy. 60, Fairway Exit S., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 20-8, F. \$40,
A: \$1, kids free. Jim Stromquist, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F355,
Upland, CA 91786. PH: 909-930-0268.

Oct 23 CA, Ontario. Step Above Cardwon Show, Good Nite Inn. Vine-
yard 10 Fwy., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 25-6, F. \$35, for 2, A: \$1, chil-
dren free. Jim Stromquist, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F355, Up-
land, CA 91786. PH: 909-930-0268.

Oct 24-26 CA, Visalia. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Show, Mall.
2330 S. Mooney Blvd., corner of Mooney & Walnut, SH: Fri. 10am-
9pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T. 40, F. \$95, A: free. Bruce
Hightower, 536 W. Stuart #A, Clovis, CA 93612. PH: 209-325-7729.

Oct 28 CA, Fullerton. Step Above Collector Show, Holiday Inn. Harbor
Blvd., 91 Fwy., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 40-6, F. \$35, for 2, A: free. Step
Above, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F 355, Upland, CA 91786. PH:
909-930-0268.

Oct 29 CA, Walnut. Step Above Cardwon Show, Holiday Inn Express.
Pomona Fwy. 60, Fairway Exit S., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 20-8, F. \$40,
A: \$1, kids free. Jim Stromquist, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F355,
Upland, CA 91786. PH: 909-930-0268.

Oct 30 CA, Ontario. Step Above Cardwon Show, Good Nite Inn. Vine-
yard 10 Fwy., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 25-6, F. \$35, for 2, A: \$1, chil-
dren free. Jim Stromquist, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F355, Up-
land, CA 91786. PH: 909-930-0268.

Nov 1 CA, Lodi-Stockton. Comic Book Show, Grape Festival & Harvest
Fairgrounds, Burgundy Hall. 413 E. Lockeford St., SH: 10am-4pm, T.
25, F. \$37.50 for 1, \$65, for 2, A: \$1, under 5 free. Home Plate
Prods., Chris Ryan, 422 Cedar Ctr., Lodi, CA 95240. PH: 209-368-
7345.

Nov 1-2 CA, Oakland. Supercon Comic Book & Fantasy Show, Con-
vention Ctr. T. 100, A: \$8, in advance, \$9, at the door. Steve, PO Box
215392, Sacramento, CA 95821. PH: 916-648-0572.

Nov 1 CA, Fresno. Silver Age Comic Book & Memorabilia Show, Clovis
High School. 1055 Fowler, corner of Barstow & Fowler, SH: 9am-
3pm, T. 30, F. \$35, A: \$1. Bruce Hightower, 536 W. Stuart #A, Clo-
vis, CA 93612. PH: 209-325-7798.

Nov 4 CA, Fullerton. Step Above Collector Show, Holiday Inn. Harbor
Blvd., 91 Fwy., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 40-6, F. \$35, for 2, A: free. Step

If a state is not listed in this
issue's calendar, it is because we
received no show listings for
that state for this time period.
If you are planning to attend
a show some distance from your
home, we advise you to call the
show's promoter for any last-
minute changes and informa-
tion.

Above, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F 355, Upland, CA 91786. PH:
909-930-0268.

Nov 8-9 CA, Sacramento. Annual Comic Book, Sports Cards & Toys
Show, Country Club Plaza-Mall. Hwy. 50 to Watt & El Camino, SH:
10am-7pm, T. 70-8, F. \$75, A: free. Edward Conway, PO Box 457,
Dixon, CA 95620. PH: 707-422-3974.

Nov 9 CA, Los Angeles. Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention,
Shrine Auditorium Expo Center. 700 W. 32nd St., SH: 10am-5pm, A:
\$5. Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506.
PH: 818-954-8432.

Nov 11 CA, Fullerton. Step Above Collector Show, Holiday Inn. Harbor
Blvd., 91 Fwy., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 40-6, F. \$35, for 2, A: free. Step
Above, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F 355, Upland, CA 91786. PH:
909-930-0268.

Nov 15 CA, San Francisco. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Cathedral
Hill Hotel. 1101 Van Ness Ave. at Geary Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T. 50,
F. \$50, A: \$2. Al Jang or Damon Jang, 3145 Geary Blvd. #270, San
Francisco, CA 94118. PH: 415-386-9036.

Nov 18 CA, Fullerton. Step Above Collector Show, Holiday Inn. Harbor
Blvd., 91 Fwy., SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T. 40-6, F. \$35, for 2, A: free. Step
Above, 1042 N. Mountain Ave., Ste. F 355, Upland, CA 91786. PH:
909-930-0268.

Nov 21-23 CA, San Rafael. Annual Comic Book, Sports Cards & Toys
Show, Mall at Northgate. Hwy. 101 to Terra Linda Exit, SH: mail hrs.,
T. 60-8, F. \$95-\$110, A: free. Edward Conway, PO Box 457, Dixon,
CA 95620. PH: 707-422-3974.

COLORADO

Nov 21-23 CO, Denver. Planet Denver Holiday Extravaganza, Regency
Hotel. 1-25 & 38th Ave., SH: Fri. 2pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun.
10am-4pm, T. 150. Avalon Promotions, PO Box 261126, Littleton,
CO 80163. PH: 303-805-1210.

CONNECTICUT

Oct 24 CT, Guilford. Comic Book & BB Card Show, Masonic Temple.
304 Center St., SH: 6pm-10pm, T. 25-8, F. \$35, A: 99¢. Chuck Blue,
PO Box 3275, Westville Station, New Haven, CT 06515. PH: 203-
934-0219.

Oct 26 CT, East Hartford. Comic Book Convention, Elks Hall. 148 Rob-
erts St. (Exit 58 from I-84), SH: 11am-5pm, T. 35, F. \$40, A: 99¢.
Hal Kinney, 206 Burnside Ave., E. Hartford, CT 06108. PH: 860-289-
1208.

Oct 31-Nov 2 CT, Simsbury. Comic Books, Sports Cards & Memorabilia
Show, Farmington Valley Mall. Jct. Rts. 44 & 167, SH: Fri. & Sat.
10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T. 50-8, F. \$140, A: free. Matt De-
Roma, PO Box 800, Somers, CT 06071. PH: 860-741-8649.

Nov 1 CT, Meriden. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Platt High School
Cafeteria. 220 Coe Ave., SH: 9:30am-3pm, T. 60-6, F. \$40, for 2, A:
99¢, 10 & under free. Ernie Schaper, 10 McKenzie Ave., S. Meriden,
CT 06451. PH: 203-634-0069.

Nov 2 CT, Stratford. CT's Premier Show, Ramada Inn. Exit 30 off I-95,
SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T. 56-8, F. \$75, for 1, \$125, for 2, A: \$3, 99¢
children. Mike Riccio, 155 Lighthouse Ave., Stratford, CT 06497. PH:
203-377-9567.

Nov 2 CT, East Hartford. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Holiday Inn.
363 Roberts St., SH: 9am-3:30pm, T. 45-6, F. \$35, for 1, \$55, for 2,
\$80, for 3, A: 99¢. Terranova Sports Cards Prods., Inc., Natale Terra-
nova Jr., 159 Federal St., W. Hartford, CT 06110. PH: 860-586-8354.

Nov 8 CT, Naugatuck. Comic Book & BB Card Show, Elks Lodge #967.
758 Rubber Ave., SH: 9am-3pm, T. 50-8, F. \$35, for 1, \$65, for 2, A:
free. Thomas Bryk, PO Box 1056, Naugatuck, CT 06770. PH: 203-
723-9289.

Nov 9 CT, Milford. BB Card Mania, K of C Hall. 625 Bridgeport Ave., Exit
34 off I-95, take L., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T. 50, F. \$60, A: \$2, \$1
under 10. Mrs. Aurella V. Wacks, PO Box 5078, Milford, CT 06460.
PH: 203-874-3545 or FAX: 203-876-8427.

Nov 15 CT, West Haven. Comic Book & BB Card Show, K of C. 350 S.
Union St., SH: 10am-4pm, T. 40-8, F. \$35, A: 99¢. Chuck Blue, PO
Box 3275, Westville Station, New Haven, CT 06515. PH: 203-934-
0219.

Nov 21 CT, Stratford. CT's Premier Comic Book & Sports Card Show,
Ramada Inn. Exit 30 off I-95, SH: 6pm-9:30pm, T. 25-8, F. \$50, for 1,
\$80, for 2, A: 99¢. Mike Riccio, 155 Lighthouse Ave., Stratford, CT
06497. PH: 203-377-9567.

Nov 22 CT, Wallingford. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Our Lady of
Fatima Parish Hall. 382 Hope Hill Rd., Rt. 68 W. off Rt. 91, follow 68
to Hope Hill Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, T. 50-60 6', F. \$20, for 1, \$30, for 2,
A: 99¢, under 12 free. Steve Clark, 40 Apple St., Wallingford, CT
06492. PH: 203-265-0531.

FLORIDA

Oct 31-Nov 2 FL, Merritt Island. Comic Book & Sports Card Show,
Merritt Square Mall. 777 E. Merritt Island Causeway, SH: Fri. & Sat.
10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-6pm, T. 60-8, F. \$125. Chuck or Joe, PH:
941-549-2449 or 542-7730.

Nov 2 FL, Tampa. Comic Book Convention & Toy Show, Lowry Park Pa-
vilion. 7530 N. Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T. 60-8, F. \$40, A: \$2.50. D.
Walent, PO Box 82254, Tampa, FL 33682. PH: 813-932-0494.

Nov 8 FL, Tallahassee. Comic Book, Sports Card, Toys & Coll. Show,
Marquz Shrine Temple. 1805 N. Monroe St., SH: 9am-4pm, T. 27, F.
\$35, for 1st, \$25, for 2nd, A: free. Charlie Watson, 646 W. 10th Ave.,
Tallahassee, FL 32303. PH: 904-224-8813.

Nov 15-16 FL, Orlando. Antique & Collectible Toy Super Show, Bahia
Shrine Auditorium. 2300 Pembroke Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun.
10am-4pm, T. 200-8, A: \$6. Mark Leinberger, PH: 561-694-7982 or
Jon Jacobus, PH: 954-772-1420.

Nov 16 FL, Orlando. Fun Con, Holiday Inn-Florida Mall. T. 50, F. \$30,
A: \$2. Jim Ivey, 2605 Curry Ford Rd., Orlando, FL 32806. PH: 407-
896-4710.

Nov 22-23 FL, Orlando. Collectors Expo, Fairgrounds. 4603 W. Colonial
Dr., SH: Sat. & Sun. 11am-5pm, A: \$5. Classic Shows, Chip Nofal,
PO Box 1507, St. Augustine, FL 32085. PH/FAX: 904-928-0666.

GEORGIA

Nov 1-2 GA, Atlanta-Kennesaw. All Stars Comic Book, Sports Cards &
Collectibles Show, Kinder's Outlet Mall. 3333 George Busbee Pky., I-
75 & Chastain Rd. (Exit 117), SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm,
T. 50-8, F. \$75, A: free. Jon White, 201 Thornwood Cr., Acworth, GA
30102. PH: 770-924-3491 home or 428-4980 Show Center.

Nov 15-16 GA, Atlanta-Kennesaw. All Stars Comic Book, Sports Cards
& Collectibles Show, Kinder's Outlet Mall. 3333 George Busbee Pky., I-
75 & Chastain Rd. (Exit 117), SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-
5pm, T. 50-8, F. \$75, A: free. Jon White, 201 Thornwood Cr., Ac-
worth, GA 30102. PH: 770-924-3491 home or 428-4980 Show Center.

Nov 16 GA, Augusta. Comic Book & Toy Show, Holiday Inn. I-20, Exit
65 at Washington Rd., SH: 10am-5pm, T. 50-6, F. \$45, A: \$3. KEB-
co, Inc. Comic & Toy Emporium, Ken Barnette, 139 Christopher Pl.,

Riverdale, GA 30274. PH: 770-471-6970.

ILLINOIS

Oct 26 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book & Sports Card & Toys Show, Civic
Ctr. 1 blk. W. of La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T.
85-6, F. \$28, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL
60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

Oct 26 IL, Mt. Vernon. Ultimate Comic Book, Non-Sports, Sports Card
& Racing Show, Jent Factory Outlet Mall. I-57, I-64 & Rt. 15, SH:
10am-5pm, T. 30-8, F. \$10, A: free. Jim Hall, 1100 Park Ave., Mt.
Vernon, IL 62864. PH: 618-244-0548.

Oct 26 IL, Mt. Vernon. Comic Book, Sports Card & Racing Show, Holi-
day Inn. I-57 & Rt. 15, SH: 9am-5pm, T. 25-8, F. \$20, A: free. Mike
Bleeks, RR 2, Enfield, IL 62835. PH: 618-963-2002.

Oct 26 IL, Naperville. Comic Book & Action Figure Show, Raddison Hot-
el. Tollway I-88, Naperville Rd. & Warrenville Rds., SH: 9:30am-
3pm, A: \$2. Jamie, PH: 630-778-0700 or Graham Crackers Comics,
PH: 630-355-4310.

Nov 1 IL, Waukegan. Comic Book & Collectible Show, Bertrand Bowling
Lanes. 2616 Washington St., Rt. 41 then E. on Washington, SH:
10am-3pm, T. 15-6' & 8', F. \$15, A: free. James Libusci, PO Box
8822, Waukegan, IL 60079. PH: 847-336-9963 or 336-5002.

Nov 1-2 IL, Rockford. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Colonial Vil-
lage Mall. 1100 S. Alpine, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T.
60-8, F. \$60, A: free. Rich Peterson, 9741 Gentian Dr., Machesney
Park, IL 61115. PH: 815-633-8105.

Nov 2 IL, Oak Lawn. Comic Book & Sports Card & Toys Show, Fatima K
of C. 5830 W. 95th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T. 40-8, F. \$25, A: \$1. John
Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

Nov 2 IL, Waukegan. Comic Book & Collectible Show, American Le-
gion Hall. Homer Dahring Post #281, 501 Washington St., T. 25-8,
F. \$30, for 1, \$50, for 2, Jim Libasci, PO Box 8822, Waukegan, IL
60079. PH: 847-336-9963.

Nov 9 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book & Sports Card & Toys Show, Civic
Ctr. 1 blk. W. of La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T.
85-6, F. \$28, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL
60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

INDIANA

Oct 24 IN, Highland. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Lincoln Center.
2450 Lincoln St., from I-94 S. on Indianapolis Blvd., 4th traffic light
turn L., SH: 6pm-9:30pm, T. 16, F. \$15, for 2, A: free. Kitty Watson,
2450 Lincoln St., Highland, IN 46322. PH: 219-838-0114 8am-
10pm.

Oct 25-26 IN, Logansport. Multi Collectible Hobby Show, Mall. US 24
E., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T. 50. G&S "Ex-Change",
Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-
1887.

Oct 31-Nov 2 IN, Hammond. Multi-Collectible Hobby Show, Woodmar
Mall. Indianapolis Blvd. at 165th St., SH: Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. 10am-
5:30pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T. 60. G & S Ex-Change, Gene Haberstick,
PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Nov 1-2 IN, Indianapolis. Eastside Collectible Comic Book, Sports Card
& Racing Show, Ramada Inn East. Pendleton Pike at I-465 E., Exit
42, SH: 10am-4pm, T. 32-6, F. \$30, for 1, \$45, for 2, A: free. Mark
Lopez, PO Box 29364, Indianapolis, IN 46229. PH: 317-894-1115.

Nov 2 IN, Indianapolis. Sunday Ash Comic Book, Toy & Animation
Show, Holiday Inn East. 6990 E. 21st St., (Shadeland Ave., Exit of I-
70 or I-465), SH: 10:30am-4:30pm, T. 85, F. \$70, A: \$4, 9 & under
free. Ash Comics & Shows, Andy & Diane Holzman, 1947 Bechtel
Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46260. PH: 317-334-0173 or 824-9602.

Nov 8 IN, Marion. Comic Book & BB Card Show, Grant City. 4-H Fair-
grounds. 4 mi. W. I-69 SR 18, SH: 10am-5pm, T. 30-10, A: free. Cai-
mains, 1341 Gillispie St., Marion, IN 46952. PH: 317-668-
1159, 662-8268 home or 800-611-8667.

Nov 9 IN, Highland. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Lincoln Center.

(Continues on Page 55)

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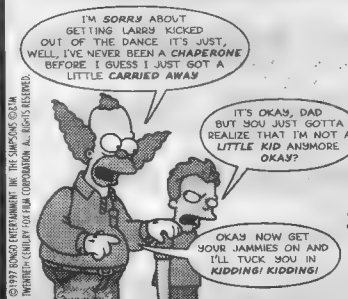


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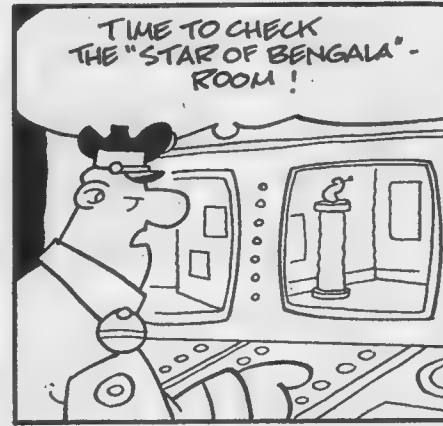
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EVENTS

(From Page 53)

2450 Lincoln St., from I-94 S. on Indianapolis Blvd., 4th traffic light turn L. SH: 6pm-9:30pm, T: 16, F: \$15. for 2, A: free. Kitty Watson, 2450 Lincoln St., Highland, IN 46322. PH: 219-838-0114 8am-10pm.

Nov 15 IN, Highland. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Lincoln Center. 2450 Lincoln St., from I-94 S. on Indianapolis Blvd., 4th traffic light turn L. SH: 9am-2:30pm, T: 30, F: \$15. for 2, A: free. Kitty Watson, 2450 Lincoln St., Highland, IN 46322. PH: 219-838-0114 8am-10pm.

Nov 15 IN, Hammond. "Joe's Comic Book & Sports Cards Show", American Inn. 4000 Calumet Ave., I-90, Exit 5, SH: 9:30am-2:30pm, T: 40-6, F: \$15. A: \$1. Grand Slam Promos., Joe Jurek, Jr., PO Box 201, Whiting, IN 46394. PH: 219-659-4947 (24 hrs).

Nov 15 IN, Michigan City. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toy Show, Barker Middle School Gym. SH: 10am-5pm, T: 85-8, F: \$25. for 1, \$15. ea. add'l. A: \$1. 5 and under free. Ken Zball, PH: 219-873-2057 ext. 352 or 874-4930.

Nov 16 IN, Merrillville. "Joe's Comic Book & Sports Cards Show", American Legion Post #430. 7430 Broadway, 1 mi. N. of US Rt. 30, SH: 9:30am-2:30pm, T: 25-8, F: \$15. A: \$1. Grand Slam Promos., Joe Jurek, Jr., PO Box 201, Whiting, IN 46394. PH: 219-659-4947 (24 hrs).

Nov 22-23 IN, Hammond. Comic Book & Sports Card Show #5, Purdue Univ. Calumet's Gym. 2300 173rd St. & Indianapolis Blvd., I-80/94, Exit 2, SH: Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 10am-3pm, T: 75-6, F: \$50-\$60. A: \$2. \$1. kids. Grand Slam Promos., Joe J. Jurek, PO Box 201, Whiting, IN 46394. PH: 219-659-4947 (24 hrs).

IOWA

Nov 22-23 IA, Davenport. Collectors Paradise Super Show, Fairgrounds. 2815 W. Locust, 3 mi. of 280, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 80-8, F: \$50. for 1, \$40. ea. add'l. A: \$1. Vince Jones, PO Box 172, Davenport, IA 52806. PH: 800-409-7375.

KANSAS

Oct 24-26 KS, Topeka. 3rd Annual Fall Show, Westridge Mall. SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-6pm, T: 50, F: \$100. for 1, \$180. for 2, A: free. Tim Belk, 103 Patterson, Joplin, MO 64801. PH: 417-781-4422.

Nov 7-9 KS, Dodge City. 3rd Annual Winter Show, Village Square Mall. SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 35, F: \$75. for 1, \$130. for 2, A: free. Tim Belk, 2811 Joplin, Joplin, MO 64804. PH: 417-781-4422.

Nov 8-9 KS, Pittsburg. Collectors Show, Meadowbrook Mall. SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 10am-5pm, T: 8, F: \$55. in advance \$50. A: free. Dave. PH: 316-232-2244.

KENTUCKY

Nov 2 KY, Bowling Green. Great Comic Book Show, Greenwood Executive Inn. Exit 22, I-65, SH: 9am-4pm, T: 30, A: \$1. Comic City, PH: 615-262-0908.

Nov 9 KY, Hazard. Comic Book, Toys & Sports Card Show, Nat'l. Guard Armory. SH: 9am-5pm, T: 40-8, F: \$35. A: \$1. The Ball Park, Ron or

Jim Sergeant, PO Box 197, Mayking, KY 41837. PH: 606-633-7837 or 633-1556.

LOUISIANA

Nov 9 LA, Baton Rouge. Comic Book & Sports Cards Show, Holiday Inn South. I-12 & Airline Hwy. SH: 10am-5pm, T: 33, F: \$45-\$55. A: \$1.50. Anthony Barcellona, 2423 McHugh Rd., Baker, LA 70714. PH: 504-923-2349 or 775-9846.

MARYLAND

Oct 26 MD, Glen Burnie. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Convention, Holiday Inn North. 6323 Ritchie Hwy. 695 Exit 3A, SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$60. for 1, \$50. ea. for 2 or more. Jubilee Enterprises, 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587 or FAX: 301-203-0159.

Nov 16 MD, Baltimore. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Convention, Days Hotel. I-83, Exit 17, Timonium, SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$60. for 1, \$50. ea. for 2 or more. Jubilee Enterprises, 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587 or FAX: 301-203-0159.

MASSACHUSETTS

Oct 24-26 MA, Worcester. Comic Books, Sports Cards & Memorabilia Show, Common Outlets Mall. 100 Front St., Exit 16 off I-290, SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-6pm, T: 50-8, F: \$180. A: free. Matt DeRoma, PO Box 800, Somers, CT 06071. PH: 860-741-8649.

Nov 2 MA, Dedham. Great Boston Fall Antique & Collectible Toy Show, Holiday Inn. Jct. Rt. 1 S. & 128-95, use Exit 15A, SH: 9:30am-3pm, A: \$4.50 (\$3.50 after noon), 12 and under free with adult. Mrs. Devlin, PH: 508-379-9733.

Nov 16 MA, South Attleboro. Comic Book, Toys, Non-Sports Card & Collectibles Show, K of C Hall. 305 Highland St., Rt. 95 take Exit 3 or 3B to Rt. 123 W. SH: 10am-3pm, T: 59, A: \$3. Harry Martin, 11 Elm St., Hopkinton, MA 01748. PH: 508-435-7831.

Nov 22-23 MA, Boston. 11th Annual Northeast Collectibles Extravaganza, Bayside Expo Ctr. Rt. 93, Exit 15 near JFK Library, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 500, A: \$8. Show Promotion, Inc., PH: 800-759-SHOW.

MICHIGAN

Oct 25 MI, Grand Rapids. West Michi-Con, Crowne Plaza Hotel. 5700 28th St. SE, SH: 9am-4pm, T: 50-8, F: \$60. A: \$2. Lange's Sports Connection, PH: 616-784-5540.

Oct 26 MI, Clawson. Encore-Con Comic Book Show, K of C. 870 N. Main St. (btw. 14 & 15 Mile Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 8, F: \$35. in advance \$40. day of show, A: \$2. Motor City Conventions, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd., Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Nov 2 MI, Saginaw. Comic Book, Sports Card & Memorabilia Show, St. Vincent Home-Boysville. 925 N. River, SH: 9:30am-4:30pm, T: 30-8, F: \$20. for 1, \$35. for 2, A: free. Rick Doud, PH: 517-684-2684 or 752-5622.

Nov 7-9 MI, Roseville. Comic Book, Sports Card & Coll. Show, Roseville Towne Center. 12 Mile & Gratiot, SH: Fri. 3pm-8pm, Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 11am-4pm, T: 60-8, F: \$40. Rick Behar, 3990 W. 12 Mile Rd., Berkley, MI 48072. PH: 248-557-1529.

Nov 8 MI, Ann Arbor. Spartan Comic Book & Toy Show, Elks Lodge #325. 325 W. Eisenhower Blvd. off of State St. by Briarwood Mall, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 42-8, F: \$40. in advance, \$45. at the show, A: \$2.

Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Nov 8 MI, Monroe. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toy Collectibles Show & Silent Auction. Jefferson H.S. 5707 Williams Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$15. A: \$1. PH: 313-289-3531.

Nov 9 MI, Lansing. Sparta Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Kellogg Center. MSU Campus Big Ten Room A, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 70-8, F: \$40. in advance, \$45. at the door, A: \$2. Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd., Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Nov 16 MI, Livonia. X-Trava Con Comic Book Show, K of C Hall. 19801 Farmington Rd. (bet. 7 Mile & 8 Mile Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 65-8, F: \$35. in advance, \$40. day of show, A: \$2. Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd., Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Nov 21-23 MI, Roseville. Comic Book, Sports Card & Coll. Show, Roseville Towne Ctr. 12 Mile & Gratiot, SH: Fri. 3pm-8pm, Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 11am-4pm, T: 60-8, F: \$40. Rick Behar, 3990 W. 12 Mile Rd., Berkley, MI 48072. PH: 248-557-1529.

Nov 22 MI, Redford. Comic Fest & Toy Show, VFW. 27345 Schoolcraft at I-96 & Inkster, SH: 10am-3pm, A: \$2. Flying Saucer Prods., PO Box 441, Flat Rock, MI 48134. PH: 888-303-8900.

MINNESOTA

Nov 2 MN, St. Paul. Nostalgia Comic Book & Collectibles Show, Sheraton Inn Midway. 400 N. Hamline Ave. (I-94 & Hamline), SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$50. \$75. day of show, A: \$3. PH: 612-822-2806.

MISSOURI

Nov 9 MO, St. Louis. Spector Comic Book Show, Kolping House. 4035 Keokuk St., SH: 11am-3:30pm, T: 70, F: \$25. A: \$1.50. Anthony Gladish, 4253 Fatima Dr. #3, St. Louis, MO 63123. PH: 314-544-2812.

Nov 14-16 MO, Osage Beach. Free Mall Show, Stone Crest Mall. SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 35, F: \$60. A: free. Tim Belk, 2811 Joplin, Joplin, MO 64804. PH: 417-781-4422.

NEW JERSEY

Oct 22 NJ, Rochelle Park. Comic Book, Sports Cards, Memorabilia & Collectibles AUCTION, Ramada Hotel. 375 W. Passaic St. off Exit 160 Garden State Pkwy., SH: preview 7pm, auction 7:45pm-10pm, A: free. Vic's Coins, PO Box 323, Rochelle Park, NJ 07062. PH: 201-845-0259.

Oct 23 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post #147. Legion Pl., (1 blk. W. of Midland Ave. on Market St.), SH: 5pm-10pm, T: 40-6, F: \$20. for 1, \$35. for 2, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 41 Cedar St., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 201-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Oct 26 NJ, Clifton. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys & Girls Club. 802 Clifton Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-8, F: \$30. for 1, \$55. for 2, A: \$1. under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 41 Cedar St., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 201-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Oct 26 NJ, Kenilworth. Schenker Showcase Autograph Show, Kenilworth Inn. Kenilworth Blvd. S. 31st St., GSP Exit 138, SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 60-8, F: \$55. A: \$3. \$1. under 12. Sandy Grecco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. PH: 908-291-1632.

Oct 26 NJ, Bordentown. Comic Book, Non-Sports & Sports Card Show, Armory. Rt. 206 off Exit 7 of NJ Tpke., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, A: \$2. EMCEE Conventions, PO Box 151, Hightstown, NJ 08520. PH: 609-448-7585.

Nov 1 NJ, North Branch. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectible Show, Fire House. Rt. 28, 1.5 mi. W. of Rt. 22 (next to Raritan Valley College), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-35 8, F: \$40. for 1, \$25. ea. add'l. A: \$1. under 6 free. Sallie Natowitz, PO Box 796, Matawan, NJ 07747. PH: 732-583-7915.

Nov 2 NJ, Wayne. Comic & Collectibles Show, Co. #1 Firemens Convention Ctr. 1 Parish Dr. off 23N at Rt. 202, SH: 9am-4pm, T: 110-6, F: \$20. A: free. Phil DeMario, 137 Sillock St., Clifton, NJ 07013. PH: 201-742-2647 or 694-9773 day of show.

Nov 2 NJ, Hazlet. Collectors Showcase, Ramada Inn. GSP Exit 117 to Rt. 35 S. 2 mi., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 35-8, F: \$50. A: \$2. Sandy Grecco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. PH: 908-291-1632.

Nov 9 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post #147. Legion Pl., 1 blk. W. of Midland Ave., off Market St., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-6, F: \$25. for 1, \$45. for 2, A: \$1. under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 41 Cedar St., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 201-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Nov 9 NJ, Bordentown. Comic Book Marketplace, Days Inn. On Rt. 206 North off Exit 7 of the NJ Tpke., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$45. A: \$3. Mid Jersey Conventions, John Belskis, 72 Hanover St., Pemberton, NJ 08068. PH: 609-894-0586.

Nov 15-16 NJ, Plainfield. World of Comics & Cards Conventions, Middlesex Mall. Hadley & Stetson Rds., SH: Sat. 10am-9:30pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 85-8, F: Sat. \$100. Sun. \$65. for 1 day, \$150. for 2 days, A: free. Anthony T.J. Grimando, PO Box 23, Dunellen, NJ 08812. PH/FAX: 908-968-3886.

Nov 16 NJ, Garfield. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys & Girls Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 60-8, F: \$30. for 1, \$55. for 2, A: \$1. under 7 free. Gary Sipos, 41 Cedar St., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 201-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Nov 16 NJ, Hazlet. Comic Book, Lineups, Action Figures, Toys & Collectibles Show, Ramada Inn. GSP Exit 117 to Rt. 35 S. 2 mi., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 55-8. Collectors Showcase, Sandy Grecco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. PH: 908-291-1632.

Nov 16 NJ, Tatentown. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toy Show, Sheraton. Rt. 35 N. at Industrial Way, just S. of Monmouth Mall, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 6' & 8'. F: \$40-\$50. for 1, \$30-\$40. ea. add'l. A: \$1.50. under 6 free. Sallie Natowitz, PO Box 796, Matawan, NJ 07747. PH: 732-583-7915.

Nov 20 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post #147. Legion Pl., (1 blk. W. of Midland Ave. on Market St.), SH: 5pm-10pm, T: 40-6, F: \$20. for 1, \$35. for 2, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 41 Cedar St., Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 201-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Nov 22 NJ, Somerset. Comic Book Marketplace, Quality Inn. On Easton Ave., at Exit 6, Rt. 287, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$75. A: \$3. Ron Jordan, PO Box 11234, New Brunswick, NJ 08906. PH/FAX: 908-828-5955.

NEW MEXICO

Nov 9 NM, Albuquerque. Comic Wave '97, Crowne Plaza Pyramid. SH:

11am-6pm, A: \$8. pre sale, \$8.50. at the door. PH: 505-897-6599.

NEW YORK

- Oct 22 NY, Westbury-L.I. Wed. Night Comic Book & Card Show, Holiday Inn.** 369 Old Country Rd., downstairs, SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T: 40, F: \$50., A: free. Fred or Deborah Kassino, PH: 516-365-4402.
- Oct 24 NY, Brooklyn.** Comic Books, BB Cards, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church, 20th Ave. & Bayridge Pky. (75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. Sunrise Prods., PO Box 340625, Ryder Station, Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.
- Oct 25-26 NY, Poughkeepsie.** Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Galleria. Rt. 9, SH: mall hrs., T: 48-8, F: \$120. for 1, \$230. for 2, A: free. Marty Leibowitz, 7 Jonathan Ln., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. PH: 914-473-7165 eves.
- Oct 25 NY, Amityville.** Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectible Show, VFW Hall, 300 Broadway, Rt. 110, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 16-8, F: \$35., A: free. Carol Fabianski, 28 Lake Dr., Copiague, NY 11726. PH: 516-598-4801.
- Oct 25 NY, Freeport.** Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Recreation Ctr. 130 E. Merrick Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 35-6 & 12, F: \$35-\$55., A: free. "Play The Game" Show Promos., Inc., Dennis Weintraub, PO Box 0121, Baldwin, NY 11510. PH: 516-623-2781.
- Oct 26 NY, Centereach.** Comic Book & Sports Card Show, VFW Post #4927, 31 Horseblock Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 56-6 & 8, F: \$35-\$45., A: \$1. Steve Gardner, 28 Blackwell Ln., Stony Brook, NY 11790. PH: 516-689-5592.
- Oct 26 NY, Ozone Park.** Comic Book, Sports Card, Coins & Memorabilia Show, Jewish Ctr. 107-01 Crossbay Blvd. (next to Esquire Diner), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 36-8, F: \$37.50 for 1, \$65. for 2, A: \$1. Rio Grande BB Card Co., Joseph Carnana, 114-32 150th Ave., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420. Joe, PH: 718-845-7240 or Tony, PH: 718-848-1795.
- Oct 26 NY, Massapequa.** Comic Book, Sports Cards, Action Figures & Collectibles Show, Elks Lodge, 2162 Veterans Blvd., SH: 9:30am-3pm, T: 50, A: \$1. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-289-7398.
- Oct 26 NY, Brooklyn.** Comic Books, Toys, Sports, Non-Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel, 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave. L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50, F: \$40., A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625, Ryder Station, Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.
- Oct 29 NY, Westbury-L.I. Wed. Night Comic Book & Card Show, Holiday Inn.** 369 Old Country Rd., downstairs, SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T: 40, F: \$50., A: free. Fred or Deborah Kassino, PH: 516-365-4402.
- Nov 1-2 NY, Middletown.** Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Galleria at Crystal Run, Exit 120, Rt. 17, SH: mall hrs., T: 48-8, F: \$120. for 1, \$230. for 2, A: free. Marty Leibowitz, 7 Jonathan Ln., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. PH: 914-473-7165 eves.
- Nov 1 NY, Sayville-L.I. Monthly Comic Book, Sports Cards, Toys & Collectibles Show, Attias Mart Indoor Flea Market.** 5750 Sunrise Hwy., corner of Sunrise & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 40, A: free. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-289-7398.
- Nov 2 NY, Brooklyn.** Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Golden Gate Inn, Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 48-8, F: \$40., A: free. Mark, PH: 718-266-1625.
- Nov 2 NY, Syracuse.** Collectorsfest 17 Show, State Fairgrounds, State Fair Blvd., Rt. 690 Exit 7, Gate 2, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 175, A: \$3, \$2. youth. Central NY Promos., Lyn Lake, 35 Hubbard St. Apt. 1, Cortland, NY 13045. PH: 607-753-8580.
- Nov 5 NY, Westbury-L.I. Wed. Night Comic Book & Card Show, Holiday Inn.** 369 Old Country Rd., downstairs, SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T: 40, F: \$50., A: free. Fred or Deborah Kassino, PH: 516-365-4402.
- Nov 7 NY, Brooklyn.** Comic Books, BB Cards, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church, 20th Ave. & Bayridge Pky. (75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. Sunrise Prods., PO Box 340625, Ryder Station, Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.
- Nov 9 NY, New York City.** Toy Festival, Marriott-East, 525 Lexington Ave., 49th St., SH: 10am-4pm, A: \$5. Max Gottfried, 82-60 116th St., Kew Gardens, NY 11418. PH: 718-441-9868 Mon-Sat. 9am-7pm only.
- Nov 9 NY, Long Island.** Comic Book & Collector's Market Convention,

Rockville Centre, Holiday Inn. 173 Sunrise Hwy., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 40, A: free. Cosmic Comics & Books, 246 Merrick Rd., Oceanside, NY 11572. PH: 516-763-1133.

Nov 9 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Books, Toys, Sports, Non-Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel, 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave. L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50, F: \$40., A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625, Ryder Station, Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Nov 12 NY, Westbury-L.I. Wed. Night Comic Book & Card Show, Holiday Inn. 369 Old Country Rd., downstairs, SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T: 40, F: \$50., A: free. Fred or Deborah Kassino, PH: 516-365-4402.

Nov 14-16 NY, Niagara Falls. Collector Mania, Convention Ctr. 305 4th St., SH: Fri. 5:30pm-9:30pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 600-8, F: \$125., A: \$3. Allan George, 101 Harvest Rd., Fairport, NY 14450. PH: 716-248-2987.

Nov 14-15 NY, Manhattan. Big Apple Comic Convention, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 9th Ave. btw. 59th & 60th St., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, A: \$5. PH: 718-275-1567.

Nov 15 NY, Staten Island. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, St. Sylvester's School, 884 Targee St., Clove-Richmond Rd., Exit 278, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 40-9, F: \$50., A: free. Joe Dezio, 884 Targee St., Staten Island, NY 10304. PH: 718-351-8056.

Nov 15-16 NY, Fishkill. Comic Book, Sports Cards & Collectibles Show, Dutchess Mall, Rt. 9, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 40-8, F: \$100., A: free. Scott Binder, PO Box 4100, New Windsor, NY 12553. PH: 914-569-3080.

Nov 15-16 NY, Yonkers. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Mall at Cross County, 750 Central Ave., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 40-8, F: \$105., A: free. Steve Tepper, 57-65 59th St., Maspeth, NY 11378. PH: 718-894-5310 or 516-379-8000.

Nov 15 NY, Sayville-L.I. Monthly Comic Book, Sports Cards, Toys & Collectibles Show, Attias Mart Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy., corner of Sunrise & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 40, A: free. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-289-7398.

Nov 16 NY, New York. Comics & Cards Galore, Immaculate Conception School Auditorium, 414 E. 14th St. (btw. 1st Ave. & Ave. A), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25, F: \$30. for 1, \$55. for 2, A: free. Dorothy Berman, 414 E. 14th St., New York, NY 10009. PH: 212-254-0200 or FAX: 212-505-7610.

Nov 16 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Golden Gate Inn, Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 48-8, F: \$40., A: free. Mark, PH: 718-266-1625.

Nov 19 NY, Westbury-L.I. Wed. Night Comic Book & Card Show, Holiday Inn. 369 Old Country Rd., downstairs, SH: 5pm-9:30pm, T: 40, F: \$50., A: free. Fred or Deborah Kassino, PH: 516-365-4402.

Nov 21 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Books, BB Cards, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church, 20th Ave. & Bayridge Pky. (75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. Sunrise Prods., PO Box 340625, Ryder Station, Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Nov 22 NY, Freeport. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Recreation Ctr. 130 E. Merrick Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 35-6 & 12, F: \$35-\$55., A: free. "Play The Game" Show Promos., Inc., Dennis Weintraub, PO Box 0121, Baldwin, NY 11510. PH: 516-623-2781.

NORTH CAROLINA

Oct 25-26 NC, Winston-Salem. Comic Book Collectible & Hobby Show, Marketplace Mall, 2101 Peters Creek Pky., SH: mall hrs., A: free. C.C. Promotions, PH: 910-764-2035 after 6pm.

Oct 25 NC, Raleigh. Dreamcon: A Gallery of Horror, North Hills Mall, downstairs near old Hungate's, SH: 10am-8pm, T: 32-8, F: \$85. by Oct 10, \$100. thereafter, A: free. Collectible Dreams Promos., Inc., Sue Furman, PO Box 127, Sims, NC 27880. PH: 919-234-0095 or FAX: 919-234-0116.

Nov 8 NC, Asheville. Comics Festival, Comfort Suites, Exit 2 off I-26, SH: 10am-5pm, A: free. D.W. Howard, 697 Brevard Rd., Asheville, NC 28806. PH: 704-665-2800.

Nov 8-9 NC, Concord. 9th Toy & Hobby Show, Cabarrus Cty. Fairgrounds, Hwy. 29 & Cabarrus Ave., SH: Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 252. Carolina Hobby Expo, PH: 704-786-8373.

Nov 22-23 NC, Greensboro. 10th Triad Toy, Doll & Sportscard Show, Coliseum Complex, SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 704. A:

\$5., \$1. ages 6-12. Southeastern Collectible Expo, 1819 Peeler Rd., Vale, NC 28168. PH: 704-276-1670.

NORTH DAKOTA

Nov 1-2 ND, Fargo. Comic Book & Sports Card Show #36, Holiday Inn, 13th Ave. S. & I-29, SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4:30pm, T: 42, F: \$60. for 1, \$50. for 2 or more. Lantern News, Kevin Bergson, 520 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102. PH: 701-235-2562.

OHIO

Oct 26 OH, Portsmouth. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Show, Ramada Inn, 711 2nd St., US Rt. 23 just across the bridge downtown, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 15-6, F: \$30. for 1, \$50. for 2, A: \$1. Dave Pruitt, 1302 Summit St., Portsmouth, OH 45662. PH: 614-354-4829.

Nov 2 OH, Cleveland-Richfield. Sat. Child Comic Book & Nostalgiafest, Holiday Inn. OH Route 21 (4742 Brecksville Rd.), just S. of OH Tpke., Exit 11, SH: 11am-5pm, T: 60-6, F: \$50., A: \$2. Joe Tricari, 2520 Ashurst Rd., Cleveland, OH 44118. PH: 216-932-8596.

Nov 2 OH, Columbus. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Convention, Holiday Inn East, I-70 & Hamilton Rd., Exit 107, SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$60. for 1, \$50. ea. for 2 or more. Jubilee Enterprises, 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587 or FAX: 301-203-0159.

Nov 6 OH, Mentor. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Travelodge Hotel, Rts. 2 & 306 S. (7701 Reynolds Rd. Rt. 306), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 35-8, F: \$30., A: \$1., 16 & younger or senior citizens free. Infield Promos., Irene Pike, 9391 Mentor Ave. Ste. 133, Mentor, OH 44060. PH: 216-255-2606.

Nov 8-9 OH, Middleburg Heights. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Tri-City Senior Ctr. 16699 E. Bagley Rd., SH: Sat. & Sun. 10am-5pm, T: 60-6, F: \$55. for 1, \$45. ea. add'l., A: \$1.50. Kris Herman, PH: 330-454-3188.

Nov 8 OH, Lakewood. Comic Book, Sportscards, Starting Lineups, & Non-Sports Cards Show, Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave. (at corners of Detroit & Andrews), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-8, F: \$25. for 1, \$20. ea. add'l., A: \$1., 12 & under free. Infield Promos., Irene Pike, 9391 Mentor Ave. Ste. 133, Mentor, OH 44060. PH: 216-255-2606.

Nov 9 OH, Sheffield Lake. Card, Comic & Collectibles Show, Community Ctr. Lake Rd., 2 mi. W. of Rt. 307, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 32-6, F: \$25. for 1st, \$20. ea. add'l., A: free. Janet Pleska, 58 Maple Ave., Wakeman, OH 44889. PH: 216-839-2737 or FAX: 216-839-5138.

Nov 9 OH, Eastlake. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Community Ctr. 600 E. 349th St. & Roberts Rd., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 48-8, F: \$30., A: 50¢. Goal Line Promos., Kevin Stich, 1642 Travers Ave., Madison, OH 44057. PH: 216-428-0582 or 888-201-0616.

Nov 9 OH, Marietta. Parkersburg-Marietta Comic Con, Holiday Inn (WV side), I-77 at Exit 176 (Rt. 50), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$40. for 1, \$100. for 3, A: \$2., 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda Ne. Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

Nov 9 OH, E. Liverpool. Comic Books, Sports Card & Majic Show, Moose Lodge 122, 219 E. 3rd St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, F: \$20. for 1, \$50. for 3, A: \$1. Guy Lindesmith, 115 W. 6th St., E. Liverpool, OH 43920. PH: 330-385-0511 10am-8pm.

Nov 9 OH, Dayton. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Show, Holiday Inn (Mall), I-75 Exit 44, SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$60. for 1, \$55. ea. for 2 or more. Jubilee Enterprises, 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587 or FAX: 301-203-0159.

Nov 16 OH, Cincinnati. Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Convention, Holiday Inn North, 2235 Sharon Rd. I-75, Exit 15, SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$60. for 1, \$50. ea. for 2 or more. Jubilee Enterprises, 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587 or FAX: 301-203-0159.

OREGON

Nov 8-9 OR, Portland. Comic Book & Sports Card Holiday Super Show, Jantzen Beach Super Center, Jantzen Beach Exit off I-5, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 60, F: \$40-\$95., A: free. Twin Oaks Sports Shows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1309 8th St. #411, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

PENNSYLVANIA

Oct 31 PA, Allentown. Premiere Antique & Collectible Toy Show, Merchant's Square, 12th St. (Rt. 78, Lehigh St. Exit), SH: 9am-3pm, T: 300-6, F: \$25. George Downes, Box 572, Nutley, NJ 07110. PH: 201-935-3388.

Nov 2 PA, Reading. Comic Book, Magic & Non-Sports Card Show, Sheraton Berkshire, Rt. 422 at the Paper Mill Rd. Exit, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$50. for 1st, \$30. for 2nd, \$25. ea. add'l., A: \$1. Comicquest, Tom Jones, 1328 Chestnut St., Emmaus, PA 18049. PH: 610-966-9660.

Nov 2 PA, Erie. Tri-State Comic Book & Toy Expo, Bel-Aire Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 8, F: \$60. for 1, \$110. for 2, \$165. for 3, A: \$2.50, age 5 & under free. Chautauqua Comics, PH: 716-484-9631.

Nov 7-9 PA, Hermitage. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Shenango Valley Mall, Rt. 18 & 62, SH: mall hrs., T: 30-8, F: \$55., A: free. Mike Dorsey, PO Box 69, Fredonia, PA 16124. PH: 412-475-2666.

Nov 15 PA, Langhorne. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toy Show, Sheraton Bucks County, Oxford Rd. (across from Sesame Place), SH: 9am-3pm, T: 56-6, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Greg Petrinio, 93 Grant Dr., Holland, PA 18966. PH: 215-968-8577 or Eric Poppel, PH: 215-579-0731.

Nov 16 PA, Allentown. Comic Book, Magic & Non-Sports Card Show, Holiday Inn West, I-78, Exit 14A, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$50. for 1st, \$30. for 2nd, \$25. ea. add'l., A: \$2. Comicquest, Tom Jones, 1328 Chestnut St., Emmaus, PA 18049. PH: 610-966-9660.

Nov 16 PA, Philadelphia. Comic-Con, Stadium Holiday Inn, 10th St. & Packer Ave. (Exit 46 off I-76 or Exit 15 off I-95), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 47, F: \$60. for 1, \$110. for 2, A: \$3. Collectors Comics, Derek Woywood, 10 Chelsea Cir., Clementon, NJ 08021. PH: 609-782-0817.

TENNESSEE

Oct 24-26 TN, Chattanooga. Comic Book, Sports Card & NASCAR Show, Eastgate Town Mall, 5600 Brainerd Rd., SH: Fri. 3pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 60-8, F: \$40. for 1, \$100. for 3, A: free. AF Promotions, 320 Pulaski St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464. PH: 615-766-1168 or 423-894-3915.

Oct 25-26 TN, Morristown. Comic Book, Sports Card & Racing Show, College Square Mall, 2550 E. Morris Blvd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-6pm, T: 50-8, F: \$75., A: free. Bill Henderson, 346 Fuller Estate Cir., Morristown, TN 37813. PH: 423-581-8386 or 581-3041.

Oct 25-26 TN, Oak Ridge. Semi-Annual Comic Book & BB Card Show, Civic Ctr. 1403 Oak Ridge Tpke., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 80-8, F: \$60. for 1, \$115. for 2, \$170. for 3, A: free. Sue Majors or Barbara Sprattling, PO Box 1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. PH: 615-482-8450.

Nov 8-9 TN, Nashville. Fantasy Con Comic Book, Star Wars, Sci-Fi, Toy Show, Convention Ctr. downtown, SH: Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 11am-7pm, T: 250-8, F: \$50. Collector's World, 5751 Nolensville Rd., Nashville, TN 37211. PH: 615-333-9458.

Nov 14-16 TN, Columbia. Monthly Comic Book, Sports Card & NASCAR Show, Shady Brook Mall, James Campbell Blvd., SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 1pm-6pm, T: 50-6, F: \$50., A: free. AF Promos., 320 Pulaski St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464. PH: 615-766-1168.

TEXAS

Oct 23-25 TX, College Station. NovaCon 97, A&M University, F: \$20., A: \$10. full con pass, \$7. day pass. MSC Nova, Box J-1, College Station, TX 77844. PH: 409-845-1515.

Oct 26 TX, Austin. Comic Book, Sports Card, Action Figures & Starting Lineups Show, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, I-35 at Hwy. 183, SH: 10am-5pm, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, \$100. for 3, A: \$1.50. PH: 512-442-8876.

Nov 2 TX, Houston. Comic Book Super Show, Sheraton Hotel (Astrodome), 610 at Kirby, across from the Astrodome, SH: 11am-5pm, T: 60, A: \$2. Rober Quijano, 1414 S. Dairy Ashford #501, Houston, TX 77077. PH: 281-738-8620 or 293-8663.

(Continues on Page 88)

THE SPIRIT



OLGA BUSTLE

#7



WILL EISNER



The Spirit is available from good comics shops everywhere. If your comics shop doesn't carry it, send for a free 64-page catalog listing all of The Spirit comics, Will Eisner graphic novels, and tons of other items from Kitchen Sink Press, 320 Riverside Drive, Northampton, MA 01060 or by calling (800) 365-7465.

Master Darque: The baddest dude in the Acclaim universe

WANTED:
BAD
DUDES
HEROES NEED
NOT APPLY

"He doesn't need henchmen any more; a cellular phone and a quiet spell, wrought in the shadows of his favorite night club, will suffice."

— Jeff Gomez



By Editor Jeff Gomez and Assistant Editor Alex Glass

Three years ago, Master Darque was bad enough, powerful enough, and resourceful enough to be the arch-villain for not one, but two Valiant titles: the original *Shadowman* and *The Second Life of Doctor Mirage*. He menaced heroes in almost every other title and gave every one of them a run for their money. And this was before Darque nearly became a god in "The Chaos Effect."

Now Acclaim has a new universe with new ideas, new paradigms, and new questions. Characters are a bit more contemporary and a bit more complex.

During the first year of the Valiant Heroes relaunch, under the guidance of Editor in Chief Fabian Nicieza, there have been tantalizing glimpses of Alexandre Darque. He's a little different than the Darque we've seen.

The new Darque is a shadowy consultant to the rich and famous. Got a problem that needs a quick supernatural fix? Willing to barter your soul for a shot at playing Madison Square Garden? The Darque man has all the answers.

Gone is the towering, bald man with the severe voice and empty eyes. Now there's a slick, seemingly young man with perfectly coifed hair and a velvet voice, ready to make a deal, be your friend, become your master by making you want it.

No longer wrapped in a 19th century cloak, looking timeless, he seems almost painfully current, wearing tomorrow's clothes today, more cool than a pack of Warhols. But the essence is there. Those mysterious, intriguing, horrifying tattoos which define the Master are still ever-present and even more potent.

With Darque, there is Sandria, the almost ghostly twin sister, rhyming clues to Darque's downfall. She's jaded, if that's possible, but perhaps, in a way, more sympathetic to her brother's quest.

We have seen very little of Alexandre Darque until now, and that's the way he likes it these days. He doesn't need you to know what he's up to. He'll do his thing, make his arrangements, and he hopes nobody will notice before he's completely in control. He doesn't need henchmen any more; a cellular phone and a quiet spell, wrought in the shadows of his favorite night club, will suffice.

Master Darque will quietly go about his business in the most unassuming manner, whether it be a

midnight odyssey to possess the soul of the future or stealing a glimpse of the coming apocalypse through the hallucinogenic combination of a virtual reality crown from Magnus' time or Turok: Dinosaur Hunter's loco weed. The key is always figuring out how to best take advantage of the knowledge he obtains.

Presently, in Darque's world, the forces of magic and supernatural power are on a collision course, with the fate of the world hanging in the balance. And in its midst, ready to make the wildest deal in 2000 years, stands a smiling Master Darque.

Master Darque, a 48-page one-



shot, is written by Christina Z. with art by Leonardo Manco. The team further explores Darque in

Darque Passages, a four-issue limited series, beginning in December.

Acclaim's other 'bad dudes'

In every universe there is darkness and light. Without one, we cannot have the other.

Welcome to the Darque side. Here, one leaves the shining world of X-O Manowar and Ninjak and enters the cloudy, gray world of Valiant's manipulators. These aren't villains in the traditional sense.

These are the people readers love to hate — or just wonder about.

They don't rob banks or save puppies from trees. They own corporations and run covert agencies, bent on the control of their environment. These masters seek, not to rule the world, but more often to be the power behind the throne. They don't want to make a killing on the stock market; they want to control the elements that make killings possible.

Simon Oreck, head of the Domestic Operations Authority, has access to all information pouring through the Pentagon (and the Internet and your home PC, *ad nauseam*). To aid him in his goal,

he has "implanted" additional electronic brain appendages into his own skull, allowing him to think faster and on multiple levels. His desire is to know the progress of all things and then intercept them to his means.

His weapon of choice? The massive "chaos field" program that utilizes all information streaming through his machines to elicit patterns in the human experience — and predict how best to take advantage of them. Oreck got the program from Donald Kelvin, President of International Cryoconductors — and leader of the ultra-covert quasi-government organization Blackworks. Where did Kelvin get it? He stole it from its original programmer: Ivar, the Timewalker!

Does Oreck wish to make the world a better place with his knowledge? Or is he trapped in a vicious cycle, seeking information to feed his chaos program as it feeds him? That answer lies deep within his cybernetically enhanced brain. Now, Oreck's greatest enemy is a former D.O.A. agent who used to be called Raymond Garrison, better known as Bloodshot.

What of Donald Kelvin? He is the second-richest man in the world and, as head of Blackworks, answerable only to the most hidden elements in the National Security Agency. Harboring a hatred of the world's race of immortals born of a dark childhood secret, he has tried to make the Forever

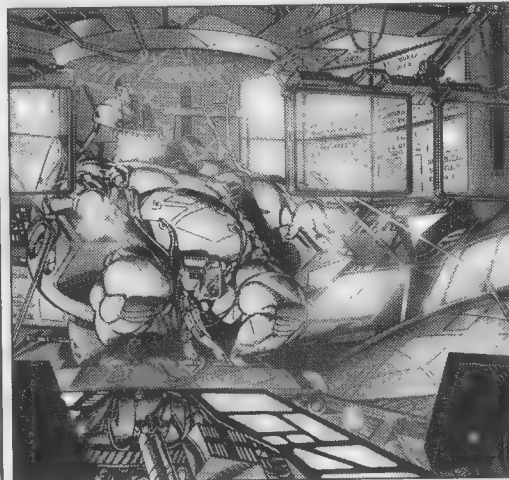


Damon Angel

Family dance from his strings and has been more successful than would have been thought possible.

What drives a mortal mind to compete with a 3000-year-old intellect and even hope to win? Does he want their secrets for the good of humanity or for his godlike agency? Kelvin's battle with the Eternal Warriors will come to a head in December.

Then there is Damon Angel. He runs a company that makes Microsoft look like a dime-store electronics firm. He has personally advanced computers years ahead of what they would have been without him. Does he wish to make life easier for us all or will he be in technology's driver's seat when the world hurtles toward the moment when the future of Magnus Robot Fighter (a future where man is subjugated — even eaten — by technology) becomes a reality? For now, Damon languishes in a coma, the result of his most recent run-in with Magnus. But people do wake up from comas.



Simon Oreck

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Deadpool teams with Spider-Man — in a way that only he can

WANTED:
BAD
DUDES
HEROES NEED
NOT APPLY

By Matt Brady

[*Spoiler Warning: Not only does this story give away the plot of **Deadpool** #11, it also discusses the events of **Amazing Spider-Man** #47, which some of our readers think was published by Gutenberg at the dawn of time. You have been warned.*]

Remember *Amazing Spider-Man* #47? Kraven showed up to collect the money Green Goblin owed him, and he figured he'd just bounce the Goblin's flunky, Norman Osborn, for the cash.

To convince Norman to pay, Kraven kidnapped Norman's son, Harry. All the Spider-Man regulars were there, as well, including Gwen Stacy, Mary Jane Watson, Flash Thompson, Aunt May, and of

course, Peter Parker. Remember how Harry got nabbed by Kraven at Gwen's big party? Remember how Deadpool came in at the last minute and saved the day?

Wait a minute. Deadpool?

Not ringing any bells?

Yeah, well, Forrest Gump never met John F. Kennedy either.

Here's the setup: Due to their run-in with the Great Lakes Avengers in issue #10, Deadpool and his companion and live-in hostage (don't ask!), Blind Al, were sent headlong through the timestream into the past for this month's *Deadpool* #11. Instead of landing in the Dark Ages, World War II Europe, or somewhere safe, they land on top of May Parker, knocking her senseless.



Thanks to her physical resemblance to May, Blind Al realizes that she can stand in as May to preserve the integrity of the timestream, while Deadpool, thanks to his holographic image inducer, stands in as Peter Parker. Needless to say, things get really interesting. Think of it as *Forrest Gump* combined with the irreverence of *Back to the Future* and the special effects of last season's *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* episode "Trials and Tribble-ations."

Deadpool writer Joe Kelly said, "What happens is that Al realizes what has to be done to make sure history flows as it should, and she has to keep Deadpool in line while Kraven's in town hunting Norman. That's a job that's definitely easier said than done."

The spark of this unusual story came from the age-old tradition of the obligatory Spider-Man guest appearance within the first year of a new Marvel series, but Kelly and Series Editor Matt Idelson had other ideas, as well.

Kelly said, "We knew we wanted to do a time-travel story, but we wanted to do it in a way that hadn't been done before. And, most importantly, we didn't want to give the readers exactly what they were expecting. Where's the fun in that? By combining the Spider-Man idea with time travel, we realized we could have it both ways: We had a



Spider-Man story, but we had a Spider-Man story that no one would've ever expected."

Idelson added, "Essentially, it boiled down to the idea that the absolute last guy you'd want to have mucking with the past and possibly messing up the present is Deadpool. It's like a bull in a china shop. It was just too good a premise not to do."

For Kelly, a writer with just over two years in the business, the idea of "adjusting" a classic issue of *Amazing Spider-Man* was enough to make him a little squeamish. "It certainly was intimidating knowing that you're going into Stan and John's sandbox and rearranging what they did just a little. In a big way, we felt pretty scared to do it, but, once I started rewriting some of the balloons and showing how Deadpool reacted to things like Harry and Norman Osborn's hairdos, we realized that this wasn't something that was going to offend anyone. In a pretty twisted way, it's a tribute to what Stan and John did. We didn't do anything evil — well, anything that evil."

Idelson agreed. "What we're doing isn't being done in any way to ridicule those early issues. It's a great chance to poke fun at ourselves and where we've come from, and we're doing it in a loving, if not slightly weird, way. When you're looking to poke fun in a weird way, well, obviously, Deadpool's the character to do that."

As with *Forrest Gump*, the story called for a new character to be inserted into older scenes, a task handled by Pete Woods, who guest-pencilled the issue. Idelson said, "Basically, as much as possible, we took the black line art of the original, recolored it, re-worded some of the balloons, took a character out here, and put a character in there. It's a lot like 'Trials and Tribble-ations,' where they put the new cast into the original *Star Trek* episode but with nowhere near the special effects budget."

Idelson added that he found a couple of old pro guest inkers to give the new scenes a '60s look.

"Since we had to flesh out scenes with Deadpool and Blind Al that weren't in the original issue, Pete developed a great John Romita Sr. riff, and we got Joe Sinnott and Al Milgrom to ink the '60s sequences so they had an authentic look."

Perhaps what gives the issue its charm, however, is Deadpool's reaction to Peter Parker's world of the '60s and the inevitable confusion that time displacement can cause. Kelly said, "Everybody is talking with that hip-cat lingo that Stan wrote so well, and, while Deadpool tries, he just can't cut it. That's probably what was the most fun writing this issue: giving Deadpool lines that he'd say while looking like Peter Parker — so you have, in essence, Peter Parker acting very much out of character."

Idelson said, "One of the first examples is Deadpool reacting to Harry Osborn's hair, which to him looks like a Chia-pet gone horribly wrong. Then, when he meets Norman, he can't believe that there are two of them with the same weird hair, which — come on, even today, no one really knows what was going on with it."

"You've also got Peter/Deadpool suggesting that Gwen's dress would look good on his bedroom floor, Peter/Pool complimenting Kraven on his outfit, a small homage to the drug themes that were soon to show up, and Blind Al/Aunt May thinking Mary Jane is on crack, because all she does is giggle and dance."

Both Idelson and Kelly stressed that this probably won't become a regular event. Kelly said, "It was a lot of fun but not something I'm all that anxious to do again. Finding the right story to insert Deadpool into and then figuring out just what he could do without really messing up the original story was not a day in the park. And, trust me, the zany circumstances that caused this story to happen in the first place won't show up again for a long, long time, if ever."

"But, if people really, really like the story — we'll just see what happens."

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Funny Stuff #62 VG	\$11
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Superman #154 FN \$18, #184 FN \$11, #190 VG \$6, #191 VG \$6, #192 FN \$10, #206 VG	\$3
Superman's Girlfriend #45 G \$3, #62 VF \$18, #66 VG \$6, #75 G	\$3
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Tales of Unexpected #57 FN \$35, #94 FN	\$12
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Gunsmoke #7 VG	\$8
Lassie #28 FN \$6, #39 G-VG	\$5
Lone Ranger's Comp Tonto #33 VG +	\$4
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Daredevil Comics #60 G	\$5
Flash Gordon (King) #5 FN \$7, #6 VG	\$4
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#117 FN \$8, #118 VG \$5, #119	\$5
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Captain America #100 FN \$100, #101 FN \$25, #104 FN \$15, #110 FN + \$25, #114 FN \$7, #115 FN \$7, #116 FN \$7, #118 FN \$7, #119 VF \$10, #120 VG-FN \$5, Special #2 FN	\$5
Captain Marvel #1 FN \$30, #2 VF \$15, #2 VG \$7, #3 FN \$7, #3 FN	\$6
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\$4, #74 VF \$5, #78 VF-NM	\$5
Doctor Strange #169 FN \$50, #170 VF \$20, #171 FN \$12, #172 FN \$10, #177 VG +	\$7
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Dear Mr. Silver Age:

Of all the mean, nasty, ugly team-ups of criminal masterminds, which was the most evil? I'm betting you say it was the Luthor-Joker team! Ooh, they were devious!

I. Rekoj
Gotham City

WANTED:
BAD
DUDES
HEROES NEED
NOT APPLY

Tracking the team

Want to read some of these exciting gems but can't find the real Silver Age goods?

- "The Dictator of Krypton City" was reprinted in *World's Finest* #179 under the more-accurate name "The Dictator of Kandor!"

- "The Night of March 31st" from *Superman* #145 was reprinted in *Adventure Comics* #339 and *The Greatest Superman Stories Ever Told*.

- "The Team of Luthor and Brainiac" from *Superman* #167 was reprinted in *Superman* #245 and in *The Great Superman Comic Book Collection* published by DC in 1981.

- "The Death of Luthor" from *Action Comics* #318 was reprinted in *The Best of DC Digest* #27.

Sadly, the rest remain unreprinted, no doubt the result of some wily scheme by this hairless duo. Special thanks for these citations to DC Comics Geek #1 Mark Waid, who fortunately uses his mutant power for good.

Mr. Silver Age says: You'd be half right, my friend. While Lex Luthor and The Joker made a pretty cunning duo, my choice would be the Luthor-Brainiac team-up. True, the Luthor-Joker team had seniority, but they don't come any smarter, wiler, or more powerful than Lex and Brainiac.

In fact, they were so wily that they were helping each other long before they ever really teamed up. What cunning! Maybe they admired each other's haircut. But if you really want to lay the blame where it belongs for these two getting together, it's the fault of that darned snoopy reporter blabbing to everyone. No, I don't mean Lois Lane — I mean Clark Kent.

In "The Dictator of Krypton City!" in *World's Finest* #100 (Mar 59), Luthor read a *Daily Planet* feature by Clark describing how Brainiac, "an alien from space," had shrunk a Kryptonian city years earlier and kept it in a bottle alongside other alien cities. (Why Kandor was called "Krypton City" is a baffler; when the story was reprinted, all references were changed to Kandor. For more on finding reprints of these tales, see the sidebar.)

It seems to me that releasing this fascinating news about a Kryptonian bottle city, particularly the part about how Superman loses his powers there, could only



Daily Planet subscriber Lex Luthor learned about a Kryptonian bottle city in *World's Finest* #100 (Mar 59).

Luthor and Brainiac: Comics' crowning criminal couple

do harm to The Man of Steel. Clark must have been getting his brains beaten in by Lois in their race for hot scoops and decided he needed a fast byline.

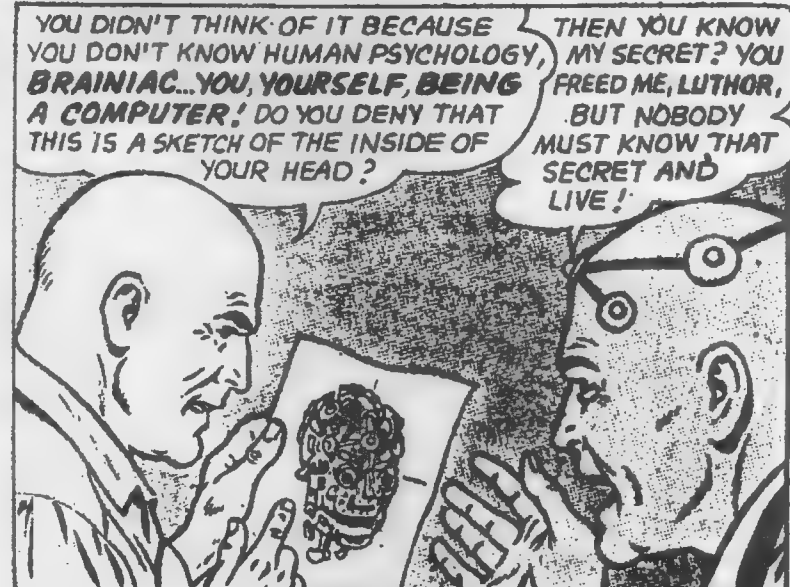
"Kent's news story told me exactly how I can get rid of Superman for good!" Luthor chortled to his henchman. He finagled a way to sneak into Kandor using a shrinking belt he invented. When he was discovered, he fought Superman, Batman, Robin, and the Batplane using Kandorian machines he stole.

Our two chrome domes finally met — sort of — in *Superman* #145 (May 61). Lana Lang threatened Superman with green kryptonite, but a spaceship landed to save him and out popped Luthor, Brainiac, and Bizarro. They rescued Supes and then sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." No, it wasn't an Imaginary Story — but it was the day after "The Night of March 31st!"

Their quasi-connections definitely kept Brainiac and Luthor on Superman's mind. In "The Jury of Super-Enemies!" in *Action Comics* #286 (Mar 62), Luthor and Brainiac served on said jury and found Superman guilty of ruining their schemes, which to them was a crime. Fortunately, the whole thing was a dream caused by red kryptonite (which we knew by Page 4 of this two-part story, so I'm not giving away anything vital here). But it showed Kal-El knew there was great potential there for team-up trouble.

Brainiac and Luthor, being criminal masterminds, figured it out, too. In "When Superman Defended His Arch-Enemy" in *Action Comics* #292 (Sep 62), Luthor escaped from jail to his Luthor Lair, where the cops surrounded him. He held them off with a "super-ray of pure force" that, he gloated, Brainiac had let him copy. He also used a Vibro gun to shatter a Superman robot sent to stop him, no doubt also obtained from the evil space alien.

Finally, our two follicularly challenged foes joined forces to cause serious damage in "The Team of Luthor and Brainiac!" in *Superman* #167 (Feb 64). Luthor again broke jail and escaped to Luthor's Lair II, where he used a super-scanner to tune into great minds in any part of the universe and in any time period. This strikes me as being kind of like setting your Web browser for "dirty pictures" and



"The Team of Luthor and Brainiac!" finally formed in *Superman* #167 (Feb 64), which revealed that Brainy was really a humanoid computer.

sorting out the results, but Luthor's a genius and I'm not (I just play one here).

What Luthor discovered — and what we readers hadn't known until this momentous story — was that Brainiac was the computerized creation of an alien race and not really a living space alien at all! His masters had built super-computers that had taken over their world, so they, in turn, constructed a robot spy and called him Brainiac.

To help him fit in with humans (and to explain that niggling Legion problem Editor Mort Weisinger foresaw), Brainiac adopted a human son. Less than thrilled by the accommodations, Brainiac II promptly ran away and went on to become the ancestor of Brainiac 5, creating one of comics' earliest retcons.

Figuring he could boost Brainiac's computer brain power and together they could defeat Supes, Luthor freed Brainiac from the planet where he was imprisoned. The two made a quick stop on Lexor, where Lex was a hero, and went on to torment our super-pal for a while. During their pleasant visit with each other, Brainiac tricked Luthor into losing his memory of that alien-who's-really-a-computer stuff. But we didn't.

These two so-called masterminds were pretty buddy-buddy for the rest of the year, as you might expect when two guys have so much in common (well, one thing in common, not counting their shiny heads). In "The New Superman!" in *Superman* #172 (Oct 64), Superman was forced to retire and was replaced by another super-human. Lex saw this as

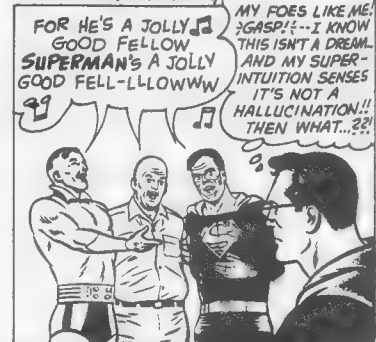
their big chance, so from jail he radioed Brainiac to initiate Plan 76, which couldn't work on the more-experienced original Superman.

Section One of this cunning plan called for Brainiac to drill into Luthor's jail cell from below in a huge drilling machine and help him escape. Frankly, if I were a criminal mastermind, I might have made that part Plan One and enacted it immediately, especially if prison officials had been dumb enough to put Lex on the first floor with no basement under him. But I get the feeling Luthor thought he looked good in those prison grays.

Our terrible twosome this time managed to bedevil both Supermen in a novel-length adventure, assuming your novels have 24 pages. Fortunately for our side, they got captured in the end. It didn't seem to make much of an impression on them, since they were back annoying Superman

(Continues on Page 66)

AND AS THE MAN OF STEEL'S SUPER-POWERS COMPLETELY RETURN...



Lex and Brainy joined with Bizarro to save Supes from green k on the day after "The Night of March 31st!" in *Superman* #145 (May 61).

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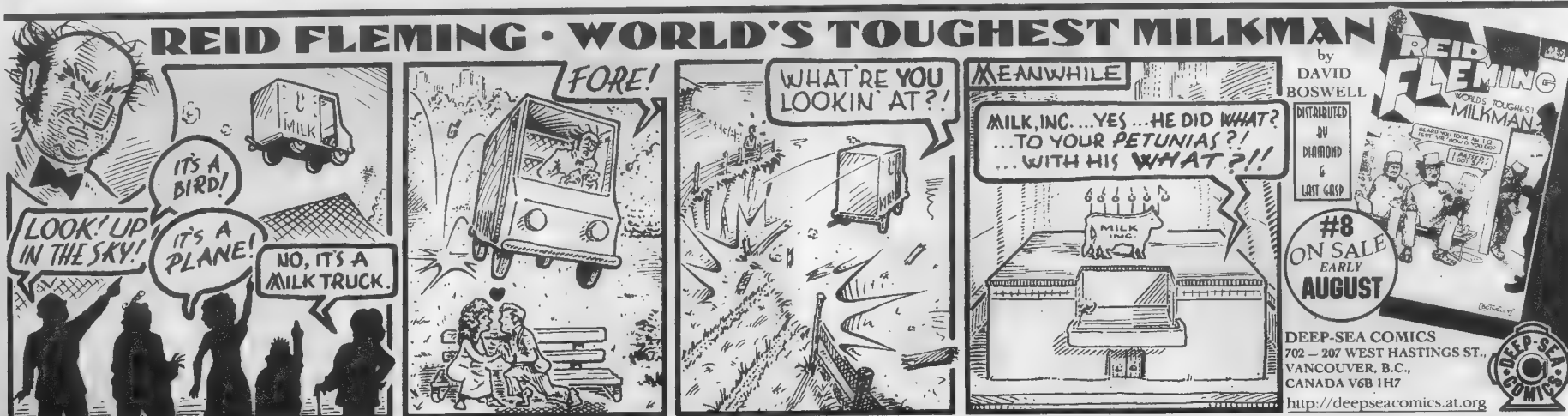
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When Kal-El was replaced by "The New Superman!" in *Superman* #172 (Oct 64), Luthor called his old teammate and they executed the "drill through the ground and free Lex" part of a new cunning plan.

LUTHOR/BRAINIAC (From Page 62)

the very next month. Frankly, I think Superman's containment systems needed a little work.

In "The Death of Luthor!" in *Action Comics* #318 (Nov 64), Luthor died while on his favorite planet, Lexor, and Superman, of course, was blamed. Yeah, OK, Lex got better. But before he did,

Brainiac heard the news while flying through space. He decided to gather a bunch of his no-good pals to come pay their respects, meanwhile stirring up anti-Superman feelings among the Lexorans. So they didn't really team up that time, but it's the thought that counts.

Meanwhile, that same month over in "The Triumph of Luthor and Brainiac!" in *Superman* #173 (Nov 64), our two vil-

lains apparently ambushed Jimmy Olsen by tricking him into going to an alien world, where villains were idolized. They had set their trap for Superman, they complained, but Jimmy, as is his wont, stumbled into it by accident because he wanted to impress Superman with his ability to handle threats. Oops.

Disgusted with their prey but pleased to have an audience, the villains took him into the Luthor-Brainiac Hall of Fame nearby and showed him around. The museum was nicely appointed with such exhibits as the Hall of Fame, which included our two favorite felons plus Clayface, Joker, and Mr. Mxyzptlk. It also featured a Rogues Gallery of the JLA and Legion, with Batman and Superman heading the Most Wanted list. Their most-popular exhibit, they said, was the one showing "accurate precognitive sculptured models" of what the Legion members would look like as elderly has-beens. I can see how that would thrill the kids.

Sadly, this isn't really a Luthor-Brainiac team-up, but I won't tell you why. But I couldn't leave it out, because the cover is so cool and it's hard to miss if you see it. Then you'd wonder why I hadn't included it and think Mr. Silver Age was starting to slip, when in fact he isn't (at least on this). Really, I was only thinking of you loyal fans. Well, I admit — I really like that Luthor-Brainiac Hall of Fame, too.

Our two smooth-pated pals cooled their heels and licked their wounds for a while, then returned to use Jimbo to trap Superman in "The Arena of Doom!" in *Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen* #87 (Sep 65). This time, Brainiac hypnotized Jim into trapping Superman for that earlier dreamed-up jury of Brainy, Luthor, Cosmic King, Saturn Queen, and Lightning Jack — er, I mean Lightning Lord. Needless to say, they were in over their heads in real life, too.

The boys returned with another cunning plan in "Luthor's First Victory over Superman!" in *Action Comics* #335 (Mar 66). Undaunted by past teamwork, they devised a plan based on psychological

warfare. Disguising themselves as scientists, they tried to convince Kal that his judgment was too impaired to use his super powers properly. Needless to say, it was their own judgment that was impaired when they thought up this scheme.

[Spoiler warning for this paragraph!] Another sneaky team-up you may have missed took place in "Superman's Crime of the Ages!" in *World's Finest* #183 (Mar 69). Superman was accused of accidentally turning an alien world's intelligent beings into man-apes, and Batman had to go to that world and defend him. The whole thing turned out to be a (goofy) scheme by Luthor and Brainiac to turn Superman evil. We don't learn they're behind everything until the very end, though, so knowing they teamed up in this issue kind of gives away a key point. But it's well worth tracking down just to see Superman rip the gorilla masks off these two alleged criminal geniuses.

Last and probably least, Superman met the wackiest Luthor-Brainiac team of all when he tried to unravel "The Puzzle of the Wild World!" in *Action Comics* #388 (May 70). The cover assured us it was not an April Fool's joke, and it wasn't a hoax, a dream, or an Imaginary Story, either. It actually was caused by a scientist who replaced Superman's Earth with one from a wacky dimension.

As a result, the Man of Steel tried to capture a Luthor whose hair grew longer whenever he got excited and a Brainiac dressed as Mr. Mxyzptlk. To Superman's surprise, both whipped out their pardons, signed by the Big Blue Boy Scout himself. Insulted, they nearly decided not to give Superman their present for his upcoming wedding with Lois, who dressed like a flapper and apparently had had her hair styled by Impulse.

Those are my favorite moments in the Luthor-Brainiac team-up. As is obvious, their long association had its high and low points. I'll let you decide which are which.

Joker-Luthor Inc.

So what about that Luthor-Joker team-up? It was featured in two key adventures: "Superman's and Batman's Greatest Foes!" from *World's Finest* #88 (Sep 57), and "Joker-Luthor, Incorporated" from *World's Finest* #129 (Nov 62).

What this team's stories lacked in quantity, they made up in quality. Luthor and Joker had a yin/yang thing going that was admittedly tough to beat, even if they tended to be bigger pushovers together than apart.

If you want to take a gander at these babies, "Greatest Foes" is reprinted in *80-Page Giant* #15, *Batman: From the '30s to the '70s* published by Bonanza Books in 1971, and *The Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told*. Seems as though some people think that's a pretty good story. "Joker-Luthor, Incorporated" can be found in *DC Special* #8, the special "Wanted" issue. Check 'em out.

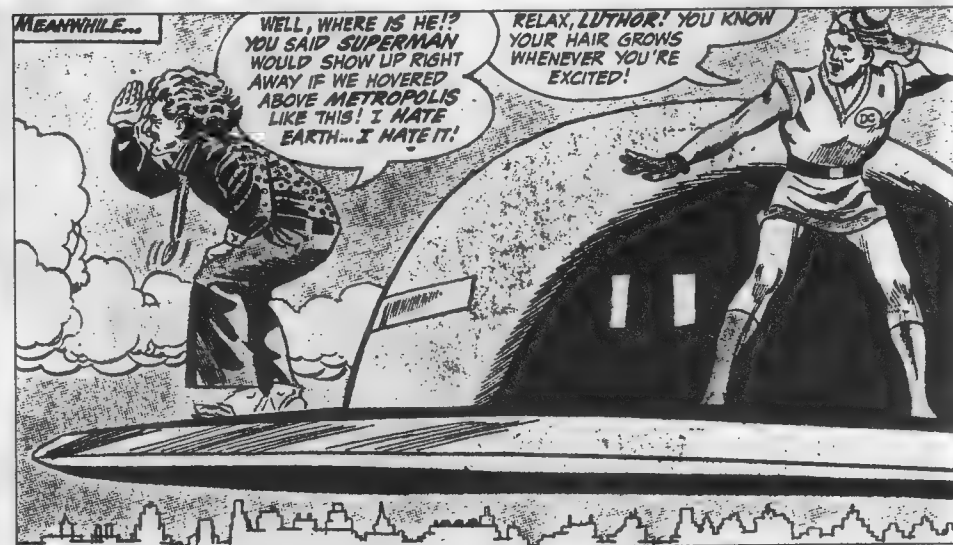
Other particularly nasty team-ups that bedeviled Superman and Batman in *World's Finest* include that unique Joker-Bizarro association in "The Federation of Bizarro Idiots" (F.B.I., get it?) in *World's Finest* #156 (Mar 66) and Muto and the Future Joker in "The Danger of the Deadly Duo!" in *World's Finest* #166 (May 67).

Meanwhile, Brainiac teamed up with Clayface, of all people, in "The 1,001 Tricks of Clayface and Brainiac!" in *World's Finest* #144 (Sep 64). Not to be outdone by his regular teammate, Luthor, too, teamed up with Clayface — with both turning into good guys to hunt down our two super-pals in "Superman and Batman — Outlaws!" in *World's Finest* #148 (Mar 65). You had to be there.

Too bad those three guys never got together. On the other hand, they probably never would have finished arguing over who got to drive the getaway spaceship.



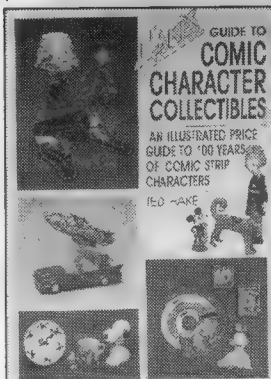
Batman tried to file Chapter 11 papers on "Joker-Luthor, Incorporated" in *World's Finest* #129 (Nov 62).



This odd Luthor-Brainiac team added to Superman's confusion when he tried to solve "The Puzzle of the Wild World!" in *Action Comics* #388 (May 70).

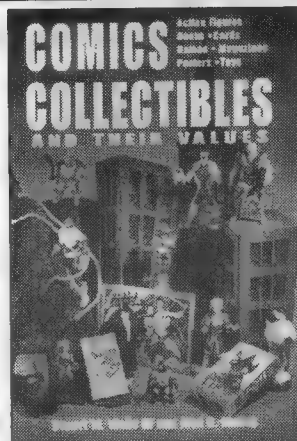
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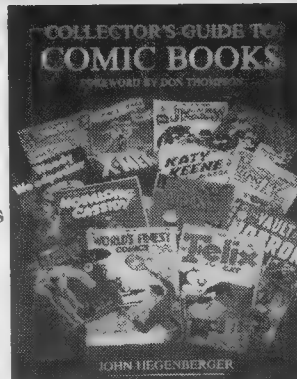
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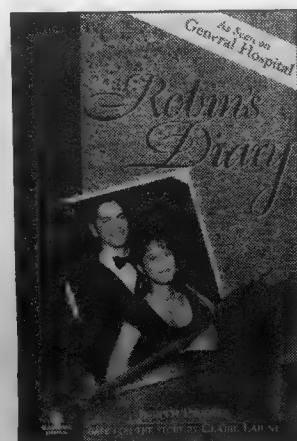
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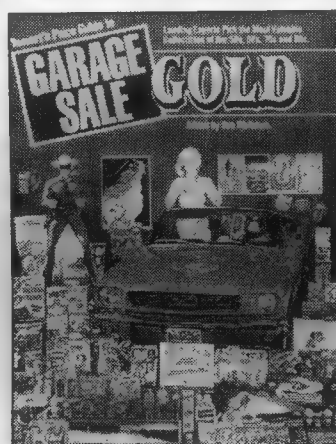
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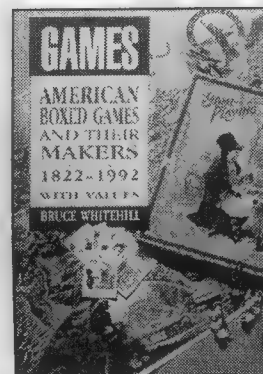
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Calendar Notes CBG

Shows listed are multiple-day, non-mall-show events with the primary focus on comic books. Further information about these and other shows, as well as creator appearances, can be found each week in the **CBG** features *What, Where, and When* and *Now Appearing*.

• **Comics in the U.S. and in Europe: The Comparative Evolution from 1929 to the early 1990s** slide presentation by Jean-Marc Lofficier, Oct. 27, 6 p.m. at Venice Public Library, 502 S. Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291. Info: (310) 305-1508. Sponsored by the Lines on Paper Comic Book Appreciation Society in Venice.

Supercon II, Nov. 1 and 2, Oakland Convention Center, 10th and Broadway, Oakland, CA. Guests include Art Adams, Brent Anderson, Erik Larsen, Dave Stevens, and William Stout. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$9/one day; \$15/two days. Info: (916) 485-1887.

Continuing This Week

• **Cartoon Art Museum**, 814 Mission St., San Francisco, CA. Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and \$2 for children ages 6-12. Info: (415) CAR-TOON.

• **Cartoonists on the Loose!** An exhibit of comics art by R.L. Crabb, George Parsons, Jeff Clark, and Roger May, Oct. 4-31, Artists Guild Gallery, 132 Main St., Nevada City, CA. Artists reception Saturday, Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m.

• **International Museum of Cartoon Art**, 201 Plaza Real, P.O. Box 1643, Boca Raton, FL 33429 (561) 391-2200. **Current exhibits:** *Dogs, Cats, and Other Talking Animals* exhibit, through Oct. 31. Features more than 50 cartoons from the Museum's permanent collection, highlighting animals that have taken on the human characteristics that people sometimes see in their pets. Info: (561) 391-2200. **Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series #1**, every Wednesday from Oct. 8 through Oct. 29. Each week, a lecture and tour of the museum will be followed by a brown-bag lunch, with speakers who are local or national celebrities in the field. Limited seating, reservations required: \$12 per lecture or \$45 for a four-lecture series.

• **Tales from the Planet Sylvia**, an exhibit of cartoons by Nicole Hollander, Oct. 5-Jan. 2, Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library Reading Room Gallery, 27 West 17th Ave. Mall, 023L Wexner, Columbus, OH. Info: (614) 292-0538.

• **Words & Pictures Museum**, 140 Main St., Northampton, MA. Info: (413) 586-8545. Museum hours: Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Friday 12-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission: \$3/adults; \$2/students and seniors; \$1/under 18; museum members admitted free. **Current exhibits:** *Heavy Metal: Celebrating 20 years* continues through Nov. 16, with a creator signing and reception Nov. 8. Work by such American and European creators as Dave Dorman, Simon Bisley, Moebius, Luis Royo, and Bill Sienkiewicz will be on display to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Heavy Metal* magazine.

• **Your Career in the Comics**, an exhibit of cartoon art which shows the steps involved in creating a syndicated comic strip, continues through Nov. 12 at Lever House, Park Avenue between 53rd and 54th Streets. The exhibit is loosely based on the book *Your Career in the Comics* by Lee Nordling and includes more than 100 popular current syndicated comics, including Dilbert, Cathie, Dick Tracy, and Archie. Sponsored by The Newspaper Features Council in cooperation with Lever Brothers and Unilever. Lever House is open Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.

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Comics in the U.S. and in Europe slide presentation in Venice, Calif. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:

Bernie Wrightson (1948)

TUES OCT 28 CBG

CBG #1252 ships — another Halloween issue, featuring coverage of Vampiella and Shadowman, plus a free Entertainment Card Price Guide insert.

Born on this date:

Leonard Starr (1925)
Rolf E. Stark (1939)
Jim Valentino (1952) 45 years ago
Stephen Donnelly (1959)
Jim Gillespie (1959)
Ian Shires (1967) 30 years ago
Karl C. Story (1967) 30 years ago

New comics scheduled to ship this week

The following information is taken from publisher and distributor solicitations and updates and is as accurate as possible at press time. Check with your local retailer to find out what day new comics go on the shelves. Comics that are delayed or rescheduled will be tracked in future **CBG** Calendars.

Note: • indicates a rescheduled comic book that appeared in a previous **CBG** Calendar.

Acclaim Comics

Adventure Zone: Turok: Dinosaur Rodeo, \$4.50
Disney's Action Club: Antique Attack Featuring Toy Story, \$4.50
Disney's Enchanting Stories: Veiled Beauty, \$4.50
Doctor Tomorrow #6 (of 12), \$2.50
Fox Funhouse: The Tick: Way out of

Tuna, \$4.50
Anti-Bullying Pictorials
Gremlin Trouble #9, \$2.95
Archie Comics
Archie #467, \$1.50
Archie's Story & Game Digest #39, \$1.79
Betty & Veronica Spectacular #27, \$1.50
Pals 'n' Gals Double Digest #30, \$2.79
Sonic Super Special: Sonic Firsts #3, \$2
Veronica #71, \$1.50
Dark Horse Comics
Alien Resurrection #1 (of 2), \$2.50
Kelley Jones' The Hammer #1 (of 4), \$2.95
Star Wars: Dark Force Rising #6 (of 6), \$2.95
Starship Troopers #1 (of 2), \$2.95
Usagi Yojimbo #15, \$2.95

What's Michael? — Off the Deep End Vol. 3, \$5.95
DC Comics
Action Comics #740, \$1.95
Batman/Predator III: Blood Ties #2 (of 4), \$1.95
Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #101, \$1.95
Catwoman #52, \$1.95
Flash #132, \$1.95
Hitman #21, \$2.25
Invisibles Vol. 2 #11, \$2.50
JLA #13, \$1.95
Legion of Super-Heroes #99, \$2.25
Robin #48, \$1.95
Spectre #60, \$2.50
Superboy & The Ravens #16, \$1.95
Wonder Woman #128, \$1.95
Xero #8, \$1.95
Fantagraphics Books
• *Bodé Erotica Vol. 4*, \$14.95 (Sep)

Gladstone Comics
Walt Disney's Comics #619, \$6.95
Image Comics
Arcanum #6, \$2.50
Darkness #9, \$2.50
Divine Right #2 (English and Spanish editions), \$2.50
Gen' #24, \$2.50
• *Mage: The Hero Defined #4*, \$2.50 (Oct. 12-18)
Monsterman #2 (of 4), \$2.95
Industrial Productions
• *Golden Warrior #2*, \$2.95 (Aug)
Marvel Comics
Deadpool #11, \$3.99
Gambit #4 (of 4), \$2.50
Heroes Reborn: The Return #4 (of 4), \$2.50
• *Journey into Mystery #515*, \$1.99 (Oct. 5-11)
New Mutants #2 (of 3), \$2.50

Quicksilver #2 (2 covers), \$1.99
Silver Surfer #134, \$1.99
• *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine #13*, \$1.99 (Oct. 5-11)
Star Trek: Early Voyages #11, \$1.99
Venom: Finale #2 (of 3), \$1.99
MM
Corto Maltese: Ballad of the Salt Sea #3, \$2.95
Topps
X-Files Season One: Squeeze, \$4.95
Verotik
• *Death Dealer #4*, \$6.95 (Jul)
Viz Communications
Eat-Man #3 (of 6), \$2.95
Metal Guardian Faust #8 (of 8), \$2.95
Pixy Junket, \$15.95
Ranma 1/2 Part 6 #11 (of 14), \$2.95
Warp Graphics
Elflord Cuts Loose #2, \$2.95

Comics MIA

Antarctic Press
Ninja High School #58, \$2.95 (Aug. 17-23)
Dark Horse Studios
Steviebear #6, \$2.95 (Jul)
Boneyard Press
Gothic Red #4, \$2.95 (Jul)
Caliber
Exit: Complete Collection, \$19.95 (Jul)
High Caliber #4, \$3.95 (Jul)
Nostradamus Chronicles #1, \$2.95 (Aug. 24-30)
Searchers: Apostle of Mercy #2, \$3.95 (Jul)
Sherlock Holmes: Mark of the Beast #1, \$2.95 (Aug. 24-30)
Cattfish Comics
Sinamon #11, \$2.75 (Jul)
CFD Productions
VonPyre #2, \$2.25 (Jul)
Chrysalis Studios
Rare Breed #0, \$2.50 (Jul)
Claypool Comics
Soulsearchers & Co. #24, \$2.50 (Jun)
Custom Comics of America
Rooter #5, \$2.95 (Jul)
Drawn & Quarterly
Dirty Plotte #11, \$3.50 (Jul)
Fantagraphics Books
Acme Novelty Library #9, \$4.50 (May)
Minimum Wage Vol. 2 #7, \$2.95 (Jul)
Ground Zero Comics
Fangs of the Widow #15, \$3 (Jul)
High Impact Studios
Double Impact: Assassins for Hire #1, \$2.95 (nude eds., \$10, \$15) (Apr '97)
Double Impact/Luxura #1, \$3 (nude ed., \$10) (Jul)
Illustration Studio
Sisters of Darkness #3 (of 8), \$3.25 (Jul)
Indigo Studios
Gothic Mansion Appetite for Evil #0,

\$2.95 (Jul)
Soul Seducer #0, \$2.95 (Jul)
Knight Press
Hellgirl: Demonsong #1, \$2.95 (Jul)
Warlace: Artifacts #3, \$2.95 (Jul)
Mad Monkey Press
Dark Town #3, \$4 (of 13), \$3.95 (Jul, Aug)
Marvel Comics
Essential X-Men Vol. #2, \$12.99 (Aug. 24-30)
Morning Star Productions
Arahnis: Retribution #2 (of 4), \$2.50 (Jul)
Peregrine Arts & Entertainment
Books of Lore: Special Ed. #1, \$2.95 (Jul)
Pocket Books/S & S Spec Sales
6: Attack from Beyond, \$3.99 (Jul)
Rage Comics
Ms. Terry's Tales, \$2.95 (Jul)
Of Mind and Soul: Standing on a Beach, \$2.50 (Jul)
Ricochet Graphics
M.L. Walker's Smoking Guns: One Shot, \$2.95 (Jul)
Sypher Publications
Prometheus Anthology #1, \$2.50 (Jul)
3CG
Ed #4, \$2.95 (Jul)
ADULT COMICS
Anarchy Bridgeworks
Nasty #1, \$5.95 (Jul)
Fantagraphics/Eros
Bondage Obsession Book Two, \$34.95 (Jul)
Collected Omaha Vol. #6, \$18.95 (Jul)
Radio Comix
Wind-up Wendi #1, \$2.95 (Jul)
Vernik
Verotika #17, \$3.95 (Jul)
XXXenophile Books
XXXenophile Collection #2, \$9.95 (Jul)

Shipping notes and updates

• **Oct. 12-18:** The following items have been added to publishers' shipping schedules for this week, in addition to those items listed in previous **CBG** Calendars.
Acclaim: *Bloodshot #8*, \$2.50 (Sep. 28-Oct 4)
Solar: Hell on Earth #2 (of 4), \$2.50 (Sep. 28-Oct 4)
Amaze Ink/Slave Labor: *Patty Cake Halloween Special*, \$3.95 (Oct)
Sky Ape #2, \$2.95 (Sep)
Spin World #3, \$2.95 (Aug)
Creative Frontiers: *Lost Stories #3*, \$2.95 (Sep)
Crusade: *Shi: Heaven and Earth #2* (of 3), \$2.95 (Sep)
Drawn & Quarterly: *Underwater #11*, \$3.25 (Sep)
Gemstone: *Panic #4*, \$2.50 (Oct)
Tales from the Crypt #22, \$2.50 (Oct)
Weird Science #22, \$2.50 (Oct)
Image: *Amanda and Gunn #4* (of 4), \$2.95 (Oct)
Childhood's End #1 (of 5), \$2.95 (Oct)
Gen' 3-D Special #1 (2 covers), \$4.95 (Sep. 28-Oct. 4)
Hellshock #3, \$2.50 (Mar. 30-Apr. 5)
Savage Dragon #42, \$2.50 (Oct)
Topps: *X-Files #33*, \$2.95 (Aug)

• **Oct. 19-25:** The following items have been added to publishers' shipping schedules for this week,

in addition to those items listed in previous **CBG** Calendars.
Aberration: *Tales from the Bog #7*, \$2.95 (Aug)
Antarctic: *Gold Digger #36*, \$2.95 (Jul)
Ground Zero: *Harpy: Prize of the Overlord #5*, \$3 (Aug)
Penny Dreadful and the Pillar of Ice #1, \$3.50 (Sep)
Marvel: *Conan the Usurper #1* (of 3), \$2.50 (Oct. 5-11)
Star Trek: Voyager #12, \$1.99 (Sep. 28-Oct. 4)

Cancellations

The following items have been announced as canceled or postponed. If a publisher resolicits for any of these items, they will be listed again in the **CBG** Calendar.
Acclaim: *Fox Funhouse: The Tick: No Time for Sanity* (Sep. 14-20)
Amaze Ink/Slave Labor: *Griffin #2* (Aug)
Anarchy Bridgeworks: *Dark Seduction: Nightfall #1* (Jul)
Witchlock: Kiss Your Ass Good-bye #1 (Jul)
Argo City: *Star Blazers #12* (Aug)
Black Out: *Hari Kari: Passion & Death #1* (Jul)
Caliber: *Lost #3* (Sep)
Gibbs-Smith: *Cypher* (Sep)
Limelight: *Pineapple Man Special* (Aug)
666: *Killjoy #1, #2* (Mar, May); rescheduled to mid-98.
SpiderBaby: *S.R. Bissette's SpiderBaby Comix #5* (Aug)
SQP: *Brutes & Babes Vol. 1* (Jul); rescheduled to Mar 98.

**WED
OCT 29**

CBG

Born on this date:
Bill Mauldin (1921)
Ralph Bakshi (1938)
Nicola Cuti (1944)
Batton Lash (1953)

**THURS
OCT 30**

CBG

Born on this date:
Don Thompson (1935)
P. Craig Russell (1951)
Michael O'Connell (1968)

**FRI
OCT 31**

CBG

Halloween

Born on this date:
Frank Stack (1957) 40 years ago

**SAT
NOV 1**

CBG

Supercon II begins in Oakland, Calif. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Michael Fleisher
James E. Galton (1924)
Ken Leach (1947) 50 years ago
David Darrigo (1954)
Tony Atkins (1960)
Roland Mann (1964)

New comics preview: Coming in November part 1 — Publishers A-H

- A List**
Jungle Comics #3, \$2.95
Aardvark-Vanahelm
Cerebus #224, \$2.25
Cerebus Guide to Self-Publishing, \$3.95
ABC
Double Impact Raw #1, \$3
Abiogenesis Press
Strangehaven #8, \$2.95
AC Comics
Femforce: Return from the Ashes #3, \$4.95
Iron Jaw vs. Crimebuster: Golden Age Greats Vol. 5 Signed TPB, \$11.95
Acclaim Comics
Bloodshot #9, \$2.50
Classics Illustrated:
All Quiet on the Western Front, \$4.99
Around the World in 80 Days, \$4.99
Count of Monte Cristo, \$4.99
Kidnapped, \$4.99
Disney's Action Club: Lion King: Lurkers in the Water, \$4.50
Disney's Beauty & the Beast Holiday Special, \$4.50
Disney's Enchanting Stories: Little Mermaid: Seal of Approval, \$4.50
Disney's The Little Mermaid: Underwater Engagements Flip Book Special, \$4.50
Doctor Tomorrow #7, \$2.50
Eternal Warriors: Blackworks, \$3.95
Fox Funhouse: Tick: Neato-Keen Holiday Special, \$4.50
Magnus Robot Fighter #11, \$2.50
Quantum & Woody #10, \$2.50
Quantum & Woody TPB, \$7.95
Saban Powerhouse: Power Rangers Turbo: Mystery of the Phantom Ranger, \$4.50
Shadowman #13, \$2.50
Solar: Hell on Earth #3, \$2.50
Trinity Angels #9, \$2.50
Troublemakers #12, \$2.50
X-O Manowar #14, \$2.50
ACS
Crime and Justice #1, \$2.95
- Invasion #2, \$2.99**
Out of the Night #1, \$2.95
Almagest
Aertimisan: War of Souls #1, \$2.75
Alternative Press
Humongous Man #2, \$2.25
Spectacles #4, \$2.95
Yikes Vol. 2 #1, \$2.95
A.M. Works
Athena #13, \$2.95
Amaze Ink/Slave Labor
Caffeine #8, \$2.95
Copybook Tales #7, \$2.95
Jet Comics #1, \$2.95
Mister Blank #4, \$2.95
Patty Cake & Friends #1, \$2.95
Phoenix Square #2, \$2.95
Replacement God TPB, \$19.95
Skeleton Key #28, \$1.75
Angel Entertainment
Angel Girl: Against All Evil #1, \$2.95
Secret Files: FBI Conspiracy #1, \$2.95
Vampire Girls Erotique #3, \$2.95
Angus Publishing
Mercedes Vol. 5 #3, \$2.95
Antarctic Press
Box Office Poison #7, \$2.95
Crimson Nun #4, \$2.95
Foreternity #3, \$2.95
Gold Digger #38, \$2.95
Helter Skelter #3, \$2.95
Luftwaffe 1946 #7, \$2.95
Robotech #5, \$2.95
Silver Cross #1, \$2.95
Warrior Nun Areala #3, \$2.95
Antitype Productions
Daze — Slab #2, \$3.70
Night Songs #1, \$3.70
Archie Comics
Archie #468, \$1.75
Archie & Friends #27, \$1.75
Archie Andrews Where Are You? Digest #113, \$1.95
Archie Double Digest #97, \$2.95
Betty #58, \$1.75
Betty & Veronica #120, \$1.75
Betty & Veronica Digest #93, \$1.95
Cheryl Blossom #9, \$1.75
Holiday Fun Digest #2, \$1.95
Jughead #101, \$1.75
Jughead's Double Digest #49, \$2.95
- Knuckles #9, \$1.75**
Laugh Digest #139, \$1.95
Nights into Dreams #1, \$1.75
Sabrina the Teenage Witch #10, \$1.75
Sonic the Hedgehog #55, \$1.75
Veronica #72, \$1.75
Art & Soul Comics
Tug & Buster #8, \$2.95
Autismatik
Missing #3, \$2.95
Axtar Press
Donna Mia TPB, \$15.95
Nira X Special: Shoot First, \$3
Pandora: Pandemonium #1, \$3
Snowman: Dead & Dying #2, \$3
Widow: Origin #1, \$3.95
Awakening Comics
Awakening Comics #2, \$3.50
Awesome Entertainment
Coven #4, \$2.50
Kaboom #3, \$2.50
Maximum Mutants TPB, \$19.95
Supreme #55, \$2.99
Oh... #18, \$4
Bad Moon Studios
Texasylum #2, \$2.95
Hardic Press
Mythography #6, \$3.95
Basement Comics
Cavewoman: Missing Link #2, \$2.95
Bellax Studio
Steviebear #8, \$2.95
Black Out Comics
Hari Kari: Life or Death #0, \$2.95
Blackjack Comics
Pulse #2, \$2.95
Blatant Comics
Ungrammatical Ebonix-Men #1, \$2.95
Xxcena: Warrior Pornstar vs. The Amazon Lesbians #1, \$2.95
Blink Comic
Talimen #2, \$2.75
Boneyard Press
Dark Angel #4, \$1.95
Soldier of God #1, \$2.95
Bongo Comics
Roswell Walks among Us TPB, \$12.95
Brainstorm Comics
Art of Kirk Lindo Vol. 1, \$3.95
Bethany the Vampire #0, \$2.95
Vamperotica #33, \$2.95
Bronzeman Comics
Secret Killers #1, \$2.95
Bust a Nut Komix
Bust-a-Nut Komix #2, \$2.95
BV Books
Condom Man #1, \$2.95
Caliber
Atomic Overdrive #3, \$2.95
Book of the Tarot, \$4.95
- Brian Lumley's Necroscope #1, \$2.95**
Dicks #4, \$2.95
Facelift #1, \$2.95
Father & Son #1, \$2.95
Little White Mouse #1, \$2.95
Marquis #2, \$2.95
Oddly Enough: Odd Humans, \$2.95
Pakkins' Land: Quest for Kings #4, \$2.95
Phenomena #2, \$2.95
Troy #3, \$2.95
Untouchables #4, \$2.95
Whitley Strieber's Beyond Communion #2, \$2.95
Cartoon Books
Bone #30, \$2.95
Bone Encore Ed. #25, \$2.95
Chanting Monk Studios
Blood for the Muse: Chillville #2, \$2.50
Chaos Comics
Cryptic Writings of Megadeath #2, \$2.95
Dead King: Burnt #3, \$2.95
Evil Ernie: Destroyer #3, \$2.95
Lost #1, \$2.95
Cheeky Press
Nemesister #4, \$2.95
Circus Comics
Brilliant Boy #6, \$2.50
Classic Hippie Comics
Raging Angels #1, \$2.50
Claypool Comics
Deadbeats #27, \$2.50
Elvira #55, \$2.50
Comic Art Publishing
Roswell Files #1, \$2
CPM Manga
Chirality #9, \$2.95
Midnight Panther #8, \$2.95
Plastic Title #4, \$2.95
Creative Frontiers
Lost Stories #4, \$2.95
Crusade Comics
Shi: East Wind Rain #1, \$3.50
Shi: Heaven and Earth #3, \$2.95
Shi: The Series #4, \$2.95
Cryptic Entertainment
Tomb Tales #4, \$3
Custom Comics of America
Rooter: First Annual, \$14.95
Cyberfly Studios
Cracker: Clown Chronicles #1, \$1.95
Damage
Bloodshed #7, \$3.50
Dancing Elephant Press
Kane #19, \$3.50
Dark Angel Productions
Blackjack: Blood & Honor #4, \$2.95
Race against Time #3, \$2.50
Dark Horse Comics
Alien Resurrection #2, \$2.95
Aliens: Alchemy #3, \$2.95
American Splendor: Music
- Comics, \$2.95**
Big Damn Hard Boiled TPB, \$29.95
Blade of the Immortal: Dream-song #5, \$2.95
Dark Horse Presents #126, \$3.95
Drakoon: Revenge of Gustav #4, \$2.95
Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan: Tooth & Nail #2, \$2.95
Eighth Wonder, \$2.95
Ghost #31, \$2.95
Grendel Tales: Devil's Apprentice #3, \$2.95
Gunsmith Cats: Goldie vs. Misty #1, \$2.95
Hypersonic #1, \$2.95
Kelley Jones' The Hammer #2, \$2.95
Land of Nod #2, \$2.95
Myst: Book of the Black Ships #4, \$2.95
Oh My Goddess Special: Meet Me by the Seashore, \$3.95
Predator: Kindred, \$14.95
Predator vs. Judge Dredd #2, \$2.50
Red Rocket #7 #4, \$3.95
Sergio Aragones' Louder than Words #5, \$2.95
Star Wars: Shadow Stalker, \$2.95
Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi: Freedom Nadd Uprising TPB, \$5.95
Star Wars: Last Command #1, \$2.95
Star Wars: X-Wing Rogue Squadron: In the Empire's Service #4, \$2.95
Starship Troopers #2, \$2.95
Two Faces of Tomorrow #4, \$3.95
Usagi Yojimbo #16, \$2.95
Zombieworld: Champion of Worms #3, \$2.95
Davdex Arts
Gothic Scrolls #1, \$2.95
DBI Comics
Rabid Monkey #10, \$2.50
DC Comics
Action Comics #741, \$1.95
Advs. in the DC Universe #10, \$1.95
Advs. of Superman #554, \$1.95
Animanics #33, \$1.95
Aquaman #40, \$1.95
Azrael #37, \$1.95
Batman #550, \$2.95
Batman Advs.: Lost Years #1, \$1.95
Batman: Black and White HC, \$39.95
Batman Chronicles #11, \$2.95
Batman: Dark Knight Dynasty HC, \$24.95
Batman: Legends of the Dark
- Knight #102, \$1.95**
Batman/Predator III: Blood Ties #3, \$1.95
Batman: Shadow of the Bat #70, \$1.95
Book of Fate #12, \$2.50
Books of Magic #44, \$2.50
Cartoon Network Presents: Cow and Chicken #6, \$1.95
Catwoman #53, \$1.95
Challengers of the Unknown #12, \$2.25
Creep #2, \$2.50
DCU Holiday Bash II, \$3.95
Destiny: Chronicle of Deaths Foretold #3, \$5.95
Detective Comics #717, \$1.95
Dreaming #20, \$2.50
Dreaming: Beyond the Shores of the Night TPB, \$19.95
Essential Vertigo: Sandman #18, \$1.95
Essential Vertigo: Swamp Thing #15, \$2.25
Flash #133, \$1.95
Flinstones and the Jetsons #6, \$1.95
Green Arrow #128, \$2.50
Green Lantern #94, \$1.95
Green Lantern: New Dawn TPB, \$9.95
Gross Point #6, #7, \$2.50
Hawk & Dove #3, \$2.50
Hellblazer #121, \$2.25
Hellblazer/Books of Magic #2, \$2.50
Hitman #22, \$2.25
House of Secrets #16, \$2.50
Impulse #33, \$1.95
Inferno #3, \$2.50
Invisibles Vol. 2 #12, \$2.50
Jack Kirby's Fourth World #11, \$1.95
JLA #14, \$1.95
JLA: American Dreams TPB, \$7.95
JLA: Paradise Lost #1, \$1.95
JLA: Year One #1, \$2.95
Kents #6, \$2.50
Legion of Super-Heroes Secret Files #1, \$4.95
Legion of Super-Heroes #100, \$5.95
Legionnaires #56, \$2.25
Lobo #47, \$2.25
Looney Tunes #36, \$1.95
Major Bummer #6, \$2.50
Man Called A-X #4, \$2.50
Michael Moorcock's Multiverse #3, \$2.50
Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess' Stardust #2, \$5.95
Nightwing #16, \$1.95
Pinky and The Brain #19, \$1.95
Power of Shazam! #34, \$1.95
Preacher #33, \$2.50
Resurrection Man #9, \$2.50
Robin #49, \$1.95
- Sandman Mystery Theatre #58, \$2.50**
Scare Tactics #10, \$2.25
Scooby-Doo #6, \$1.95
Sovereign Seven #30, \$2.25
Spectre #61, \$2.50
Starman #38, \$2.25
Steel #46, \$1.95
Superboy #47, \$1.95
Superboy & The Ravers #17, \$1.95
Supergirl #17, \$1.95
Superman #131, \$1.95
Superman: Action Comics Archives Vol. 1, \$49.95
Superman Advs. #15, \$1.95
Superman: Man of Steel #75, \$1.95
Superman Secret Files #1, \$4.95
Teen Titans #15, #16, \$1.95
Terminal City: Aerial Graffiti #3, \$2.50
Transmetropolitan #5, \$2.50
2020 Visions #9, \$2.25
Uncle Sam #1, \$4.95
Vertigo: Winter's Edge, \$7.95
Weird #2, \$2.99
Wonder Woman #129, \$1.95
Wonder Woman: Amazonia, \$7.95
Xero #9, \$1.95
Young Heroes in Love #8, \$1.95
D.E.A.R. Publishing
Shadow Show #1, \$2.95
Death Comics
Violent Tales #1, \$2.95
Dee Vee Press
Dee Vee #4, \$2.95
Division Publishing
Hy-Breed #9, \$2.50
DNA Design
DNA Swamp #2, \$3.99
Draw Near
Revelation, \$12.95
Drawn & Quarterly
Envelope Manufacturer #1, \$2.95
Vellevison, \$12.95
Duality Press
Vigil: Baby Steps, \$2.95
Echo Multimedia
Winterstar #2, \$2.95
Eddie Campbell Comics
Eddie Campbell's Bacchus #30, \$2.95
Event Comics
Ash #1, \$2.95
Crimson Plague #2, \$2.95
Painkiller Jane #6, \$2.95
Fantaco Enterprises
Amazon Woman: Art of Tom Simontom, \$9.95
Fantagraphics Books
Hate #29, \$2.95
Magic Whistle #10, \$2.95
Malicious Resplendence HC, \$79.95
Minimum Wage Vol. 2 TPB, \$12.95
- New Love #6, \$2.95**
Penny Century #1, \$2.95
Prince Valiant Vol. 32, \$16.95
Seduction of Mike, \$8.95
Zero Zero #21, \$3.95
Fat Cat Comics
Oak #4, \$2.75
Faustline Press
Leopold & Brink #2, \$2.50
Fireman Press
La Cosa Nostroid #6, \$2.95
Scud: Disposable Assassin #18, \$2.95
Fleetway
Judge Dredd Magazine #36, \$5.25
2000 A.D. #1068-1071, \$2.95
Follis Brothers Publications
Dessollette Vol. 1 #2, \$2.95
Fantanelle Press
Wiggly Reader #1, \$2.95
Forbidden
Demon Bitch #1, \$2.95
Forbidden Sex Tales #1, \$2.95
Forbidden Vampire Tales #3, \$2.95
G. Filing
Flung #1, \$2.50
Gemstone Publishing
Two-Fisted Tales #22, \$2.50
Vault of Horror #22, \$2.50
Weird Fantasy #22, \$2.50
Gladstone Comics
Donald Duck Advs. #48, \$1.95
Uncle Scrooge #308, \$1.95
Uncle Scrooge Advs. #54, \$1.95
Uncle Scrooge Advs. in Color #33, #34, \$9.95
Walt Disney's Comics #620, \$6.95
Goblin Studios
Joe Psycho & Moo Frog #5, \$2.50
Gumblition
Boink! It's Cartoon Comics #1, \$2.95
Hammer and Anvil Press
Kip, the Graphic Novel: Book 1, \$3.25
Portrait of a Young Man as a Cartoonist #8, \$2.95
Harris Comics
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Publishers

To see your comics listed here, please supply the exact shipping date for each title as soon as possible, preferably at least one month ahead of time. Send the information to: Maggie Thompson, CBG, Calendar, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990. The same goes for any other announcements, additions, and corrections.



"Barbie, if anything, is a mirror of where we've been since 1959, and it's not just her clothes; it's also her structures, accessories, and vehicles, and the attitude."

— Joe Blitman

Los Angeles-based author and toy dealer

Oni has a 'Bad Boy' for Christmas

Oni Press will publish Frank Miller and Simon Bisley's *Bad Boy*, a 40-page magazine-sized comic book collecting the serialized story from the British publication *Gentlemen's Quarterly*, in December.

Oni Co-Publishers Bob Schreck and Joe Nozemack made the initial announcement of the one-shot at this year's Comic-Con International: San Diego, and Schreck later said, "Joe and I consider ourselves extremely blessed to be able to present this latest effort of the comics medium's most celebrated talents."

Written by Miller, *Bad Boy* is the story of Jason, a young rebel in the near-future who fights against the oppression of the police state in which he lives. Along with his companion Rachel and his sentient cat Ralph, Jason attempts to live a "normal" life.

Miller said, "It's a story about personal choices and the current trend to unceremoniously surrender our individual freedoms to a 'politically correct' society. Through the character Jason, we see the cost of giving our most precious possession, a free will, over to those who 'know better.'"

Schreck held out hope for future Miller/Bisley collaborations when he said, "While this first *Bad Boy* comics magazine is a self-contained tale, both Frank and Simon have expressed their intent to continue exploring these characters and concepts, with new adventures waiting in the wings."

It's all coming back to me now. Many, many moons ago, at the dawn of civilization, a time when all men looked like Hulk Hogan and all women looked like Raquel Welch, and, aside from eye shadow and lipstick, there were none of those modern-day conveniences we've grown accustomed to, I used to review books, comics, and magazines in this column.

It was a simpler time, my friends. I used to crush berries and, with their juice, inscribe my humorous and oft-insightful critiques on the walls of the surrounding caves. Maggie Thompson used to walk behind me and try to paint over the word "doody-head" wherever it appeared, but, back then, it was considered politically correct to hit her with a rock.

But, other than Maggie, no one ever tried to prevent anyone else from expressing themselves freely. I never had to strip an entire forest of its berries to rail against the dangers of the Moloch Coalition. Life was good.

Return with me now to that time, and, together, we will explore a half-dozen works of considerable quality and wit. True, they do lose something by not being painted on cave walls, but I won't hold that against them.

☛ *The Maze Agency* (Caliber, \$2.95) is back. Creator Mike W. Barr is again writing his stories of the delightful Jennifer Mays (private detective and owner of the agency whence this series takes its title) and Gabriel Webb, true-crime writer and incredibly lucky paramour of the lovely Ms. Mays. It's been seven years since we've enjoyed the company of this couple and, reading this premiere issue, it's as though they've never been gone.

In "The Death of Justice Girl," the mystery to be solved takes a back seat to the stars. Don't get me wrong; said mystery is not

lacking in any way. It's simply that Mays and Webb are two of the best-realized characters in comics. It's a pleasure watching them do their mystery-solving and relationship thing. I can believe they live in the same world I do. In fact, I wish I knew them well enough to hang out with them. They're good people.

While it's the writing that attracts me to *The Maze Agency*, I wouldn't want to overlook either penciller Gene Gonzales or inker David Rowe. Their Mays and Webb are instantly recognizable from what has gone before, their storytelling is good, and their facial expressions are excellent.

As far as I'm concerned, *The Maze Agency* is must reading for comics and mystery fans alike. Head to your local comics shop and get your copy today. And, if your shop doesn't carry this title, well, that certainly bears some investigation. A comics-shop owner who doesn't stock *The Maze Agency* just can't be up to any good. Call it a hunch.

☛ I love big, fat comic books, and *Mixxine* (Mixx Entertainment, \$4.99) certainly matches that description. The 200-page+ title reprints long chunks of four Japanese comics series: "Sailor Moon" by Naoko Takeuchi, "Magic Knight Rayearth" by Clamp, "Parasyte" by Hitoshi Iwaaki, and "Ice Blade" by Tutomu Takahashi.

It's one of the best bargains around.

"Sailor Moon" is a multi-cultural phenomenon with fans around the world, an animated series, and a live-action motion picture in development. It's exuberant fun for readers of all ages. I even got a kick out of Takeuchi breaking into her own story to write a letter to her readers.

"Magic Knight Rayearth," the adventures of three young girls transported to a distant planet and charged with the salvation of that planet, is a bit more serious. Its exquisite art is a joy to behold. It's another all-ages feature.

"Parasyte" is a nightmarish horror about creatures from outer space who have possessed human beings by the hundreds and perhaps thousands. These creatures are concerned only with their personal survival; they will slay any being, human or their own kind, who threatens that survival. It's chilling stuff, a couple of notches beyond the Goosebumps books.

"Ice Blade" is a police strip with a "hero" who is as cold as the crimes he investigates. It

took two issues for the series to grow on me, but now I'm looking forward to the next story. Unlike the other three strips in *Mixxine*, "Ice Blade" features "done-in-one" tales.

If you've any interest in manga at all, I recommend *Mixxine*. It's a terrific package.

☛ Rick Geary's "A Treasury of Victorian Murder" continues with *The Borden Tragedy* (NBM, \$8.95). I was hooked on this "true crime" graphic novel from the droll back cover comparison of Lizzie Borden and O.J. Simpson.

Geary is a whimsical scholar. It's obvious that he researched Lizzie Borden, her alleged crimes, and the world she lived in with painstaking devotion. He then neatly laid out the whole thing for his readers, transporting us into Fall River, Mass., circa 1892, with the ease of a master storyteller. One can lose oneself in this volume.

I love this book. It's the kind of comics material that can appeal to non-comics readers. Show a copy to your local library and suggest it add the book to their collection.

☛ Jim Ottaviani's *Two-Fisted Science* (G.T. Labs, \$10) was made possible by a grant from Peter Laird's Xeric Foundation, money spent exceedingly well.

This original collection of stories about scientists, written by Ottaviani and drawn by several of the best artists in comics, is marvelously entertaining and educational. It brings its subjects to life with respect and humor. The artists are Mark Badger, Donna Barr, Sean Bieri, Paul Chadwick, Guy Davis, Colleen Doran, David Lasky, Steve Lieber, Lin Lucas, Bernie Mireault, *CBG's* own Scott Roberts, Scott Saavedra, and Rob Walton. That's an impressive line-up and several more reasons to check out this publication.

☛ As I was reading *The Wizard's Tale* by Kurt Busiek and David Wenzel (Homage, \$19.95), I kept reminding myself that I don't like high fantasy. If I lived in a world with all sorts of tiny magical creatures underfoot, I'd be buying Raid by the crate. I don't even like it when my neighbor's cat hangs out in my yard.

After I finished reading *The Wizard's Tale*, I decided I could make an exception for really good high fantasy. That allows me to enjoy this wonderful tale of a not-so-bad wizard trying to live up to his family tree without necessitating my getting all googly-eyed at the merest mention of hobbits.

(I once dated a high fantasy fan who wanted to get me involved in role-playing games. This proved to be the turning point in our relationship. See, she was thinking Dungeons and Dragons, and I was thinking "Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader and the Quarterback." It was doomed from the start.)

Busiek's characters and script are enchanting and would be fun for readers of all ages. I plan to share *The Wizard's Tale* with my children this weekend. I think they'll get a major kick out of it.

I was likewise impressed by the painted art of David Wenzel. His work has grace, movement, and personality. It's wonderful to behold and suits the story well.

A \$20 book isn't an impulse purchase, but I recommend you take a look at this one. Like *The Borden Tragedy* and, for that matter, *Two-Fisted Science*, it would make a nice addition to any private or public library.

☛ *New Old-Fashioned Ways* by Bowling Green State University professor Jack Santino is an interesting examination of holidays and popular culture. It contains many references to seasonal comic books — our own Maggie Thompson is one of the comics readers Santino quotes — and discusses the relationship between celebration and commercial products. I was truly amazed to discover how closely my upcoming Black Lightning tale for *DC Universe Holiday Bash* fit the pattern of other yuletide stories, especially since I never thought about it as I was plotting or scripting the story.

There isn't a price on *New Old-Fashioned Ways* that I can find, but it's published by the University of Tennessee Press and it has an ISBN number of 0-87049-952-1. I hope that will enable you to track down this book. It's worth the effort.

I'll see you next week.

Tony Isabella, "America's Most Beloved Comic-Book Writer and Columnist," will be at Mid-Ohio-Con Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 29 and 30, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Columbus.

Just added to the show's already impressive guest list are Brent Anderson and Joseph Michael Linsner. This is shaping up to be the best Mid-Ohio-Con yet.

Do you have something to say about this column? You can send any and all comments and review items to: Tony's Tips, P.O. Box 1502, Medina, OH 44258.

Tony loves hearing from you almost as much as he likes getting all that free stuff.

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The following is a listing of comic shops across the country, arranged by state. Be sure to mention that you saw it in CBG!

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Comics, Sports and Non-Sports Cards,
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937-773-1760 • FAX: 937-773-1957
All-Sports, Non-Sports Cards, Highland Mint,
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Filled.

Kenmore Comics & Games
1020 Kenmore Blvd.
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One of NE Ohio's Finest Comic and Game
Specialty Stores for Selection, Service, and
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419-522-6486 • FAX: 419-522-6379
Specializing In Sports & Non-Sports Cards,
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Memorabilia.

OKLAHOMA

Time Warp
588 S.E. Washington St.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
918-335-3373 • 918-335-3997
New and back issue comics, trading cards,
used video games, compact discs, movies,
sci-fi paperbacks.

PENNSYLVANIA

Brave New Worlds
300 Old York Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046
215-887-3335
New And Old Toys, Non-Sports Cards, Shirts,
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**We Buy Old Toys, CDs, etc. We Do Mail
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Steve's Comic Relief
4153 Woerner Ave.
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Large selection & good cheer.

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372 Market Street
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423-457-5273 • FAX: 423-457-5273
Largest Card/Comic Store In Mid-South.
250,000 Comics, buy/sell comics with long
SASE.

Collector's World #1
1511 East Main St.
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615-895-1120
Comics, CDs, Sports, Non-Sports Cards,
Gaming, Toys, In House Magic, Open Every Day.

Collector's World #2
Hickory Plaza S/C, 5751 Nolensville Rd.
Nashville, TN 37211
615-333-9458 • FAX: 615-833-0717
Comics, Gaming, Toys, Videos, Movie Posters,
T-Shirts, Star Wars, Discount Subscription
Service, Cards, Sci-Fi - Open Daily.

Collector's World
10820 Kingston Pk. #10
Knoxville, TN 37922
423-675-6830 • FAX: 423-675-3134
Comics, Videos, Gaming, Sci-Fi, Supplies,
T-Shirts, Toys, Discount Subscriptions, Minutes
From UT. Open Every Day.

This section features listings for retail comics stores around the world: Traveling comics collectors of all types search for new stores to dig through on their vacations, business trips, etc. Advertise your establishment here, including approximately ten words of miscellaneous description, for only \$3.50 an issue. You can buy this space in increments of 26 or 52 issues, for \$91.00 or \$182.00 respectively. Send in your store name, address, phone number, and approximately ten words of description, along with your payment. If you stock Comics Buyer's Guide we'll put your listing in boldface type.

☐ **1 year \$182.00** (52 issues)

☐ **6 months \$91.00** (26 issues)

**Send your listing with payment to: Comics Buyer's Guide
700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001 or call 715-445-2214**

Name: _____

Contact person: (This will not appear in the listing) _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

Do you carry Comics Buyer's Guide in your store? _____

Description: _____

TENNESSEE

Collector's World
4006 Granny White Pk.
Nashville, TN 37204
615-385-8136
Comics, In House Gaming, Toys, CDs, Videos,
Star Wars. Web: <http://www.edge.net/collectors>

Great Escape, The
Gallatin Road At Old Hickory Boulevard
Madison, TN 37115
615-865-8052

Comics, CDs, Records, Tapes, Video Games,
Movies, Cards, Gaming, Toys, Comic-Related
Items. Open Daily.

Great Escape, The
1925 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
615-327-0646
Comics, CDs, Records, Tapes, Video Games,
Videos, Baseball Cards, Gaming Toys, Science
Fiction, Non-Sports Cards.

TEXAS

Cliffs Comics
2205 West Berry St.
Ft. Worth, TX 76110
817-927-7172
E-mail address: cliffs@flash.net
<http://www.flash.net/~cliffs/>
Best Comic Store In Town.

Dragons Lair Comics & Fantasy
616 W. 34th Street
Austin, TX 78705
512-454-2399
Comics! Games! Anime! Miniatures and
supplies. Cats & Corgies (for petting only).

Friendly News
120 W. 6th St.
Amarillo, TX 79101
806-373-2222
Newsstand

Galaxy Books & Comics
4418 Burk Burnett Rd.
Wichita Falls, TX 76306
940-855-4872
Comics New and Old Games and Used
Paperback Books.

Good Time Charlies
114 W. Knox
Ennis, TX 75119
972-875-9737
Two floors of collectibles from the 1930s to
present. 40,000 + new and used back issue
comics. Our 7th year.

Houston's Favorite Game And Comics Emporium
2007 South West Freeway
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713-520-8700

Sci-Fi/Fantasy, And Super-Hero Comics,
Magazines, Toys, Models And Games. Something
For Every Member Of Your Family.

Nan's Games and Comics, Too!
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Houston, TX 77098-4805
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Full New Comic Selection, 100,000 Reasonably
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Novels, Magazines, Collector Cards,
Subscriptions.

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Golden & Silver Age - newsstand - 200,000 back
issues - Open 7 days a week.

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Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Ctr.
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Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-229-5299
E-mail us at: cmccubicle@aol.com. See you at
the Cube!

Zeno's Books
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Chesapeake, VA 23325
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Over 500,000 Back Issues In Stock. Please
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Comics, cards, games & toys.
Website: <http://www.digitalheroes.com>
E-mail: Info@digitalheroes.com
Open Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 12-5 PST.

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Antique shop with an entire collection of Early
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Full Line Of New And Back Issue Comics. Over
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Canada's Premiere Comic and Specialty Store.



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Super Trader ads are available for \$108.00 each. Super Traders are designed by the advertiser on 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" paper. We reduce the ad to 5" x 5" size. Super Trader ads are a low cost form of advertising. Because of this, CBG does not typeset, screen photos, add logos, artwork or credit card symbols to Super Trader ads.

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NOVEMBER 1ST & 2ND
OAKLAND CONVENTION CENTER
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SAT 10-7 SUN 11-5

ADMISSION

1 DAY \$9.00 2 DAY 15.00

SPECIAL TV GUESTS



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WILLIAM STOUT
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ERIC LARSON
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\$5.00 COMICS for only 59¢

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 (417) 782-2778
 Fax: (417) 782-0028
 bb@talleytech.com

We're selling our warehouse and must move over 250,000 comics from the last 15 years!!

All Books are NM-MINT!!!
 Satisfaction guaranteed!!!

THIS IS OUR CATALOG:

RULES:

- Choose any comics from the below list OR from the last 15 years with an OVERSTREET price of \$5.00 or less (We even have ALF and Rocket Raccoon.)
 - LIST EQUAL # OF ALTERNATIVES. PLEASE LIST COMICS IN ALPHABETIC ORDER JUST LIKE OVERSTREET. (Have you ever tried to fill an order from 1,000 comic boxes??)
 - Don't Cherry Pick! We will NOT sell you 50 copies of X-men #281. We will however be very glad to sell you 1 each of Silver Surfer 2-120 that are \$5.00 or lower.
 - We reserve the right to limit quantities.
 - POSTAGE: Please add \$3.00 + .03 per comic for shipping.
 - Please provide street address as most orders are shipped UPS.
 - All major credit cards are accepted. Include expiration date.
 - Checks or money orders accepted: Checks take 2 weeks to clear.
 - Missouri residents add 6.435% sales tax.
- ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR WANT LIST**
 We have 5 retail stores with over 1 million comics and probably 2 zillion cards in stock. We also carry used CDs, used video games, Star Wars action figures, game cards, good girl art items, role playing games, anime, and a whole lot more!

WE ARE ALWAYS BUYING COMICS & TRADING CARDS!!! Send your list to us.

We hope you'll visit our other stores.

Vintage Stock of Comics 6808 S. Memorial Tulsa, OK 74133 (918) 254-8281

Caveman Comics & Cards 1344 E. Scitellefield Springfield, MO 65804 (417) 882-CAVE

Vintage Stock of Springdale 2507 S. Thompson Springdale, AR 72764 (501) 766-1367

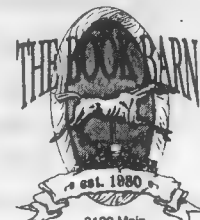
Time Warp Comics & Cards 688 S.E. Washington Bartlesville, OK 74006 (918) 335-3373

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ACTION COMICS	584-725
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN	424-538
ALPHA FLIGHT	2-130
AMAZING SPIDERMAN	235-415
ANIMAL MAN	2- 89
AVENGERS	220-402
BATMAN	401-534
BATMAN Legends-Dark Knight	1- 86
BATMAN Shadow of the Bat	1- 54
BLOODSHOT	2- 51
CABLE	1- 35
CAPTAIN AMERICA	275-454
CONAN	100-275
DARK HORSE PRESENTS	2-111
DAREDEVIL	175-356
DC COMICS PRESENTS	2- 97
DEFENDERS	100-152
DETECTIVE COMICS	600-701
DOCTOR STRANGE	2-90
DOOM PATROL	1- 87
ETERNAL WARRIOR	3- 50
EXCALIBUR	2-100
FANTASTIC FOUR	200-416
FLASH	2-117
GHOST RIDER	2- 77
GREEN ARROW	2-112
GREEN LANTERN	2- 78
GUY GARDNER	1- 44
INCREDIBLE HULK	201-445
IRON MAN	150-332
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA	200-261
LEGION	2- 70
LEGION OF SUPERHEROES	2- 63
LOBO	ALL
MAGNUS: ROBOT FIGHTER	10- 64
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS	1-175
MARVEL FANFARE	2- 60

MARVEL TALES	101-291
MARVEL TEAM-UP	100-150
MOON KNIGHT	10- 60
NAMOR	1- 62
NEW MUTANTS	1-100
NEW TEEN TITANS	1- 40
NEW TITANS	20-130
NEW WARRIORS	1- 75
PUNISHER	2-104
PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL	2- 80
PUNISHER WAR ZONE	1- 41
ROBIN	ALL
SAVAGE DRAGON	1- 16
SHE HULK	1- 60
SILVER SURFER	2-120
SOLAR	13- 60
SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN	60-240
SPIDERMAN	1- 75
STAR TREK-DC (DSN; NG; etc.)	ALL
SUPERMAN	1-120
SWAMP THING	50-170
THOR	300-502
WARLOCK-INFINITY WATCH	1- 42
WARLORD	40-133
WEB OF SPIDERMAN	20-129
WESTCOAST AVENGERS	1-102
WOLVERINE	18-105
X-O MANOWAR	5- 68
X-FACTOR	2-129
X-FORCE	1- 60
X-MEN	1- 60
X-MEN CLASSIC	10-110
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Video Games • Comics
 Books • Movies • Cassettes
 Compact Discs • Baseball Cards



\$5.00 COMICS for only 59¢

(417) 782-2778



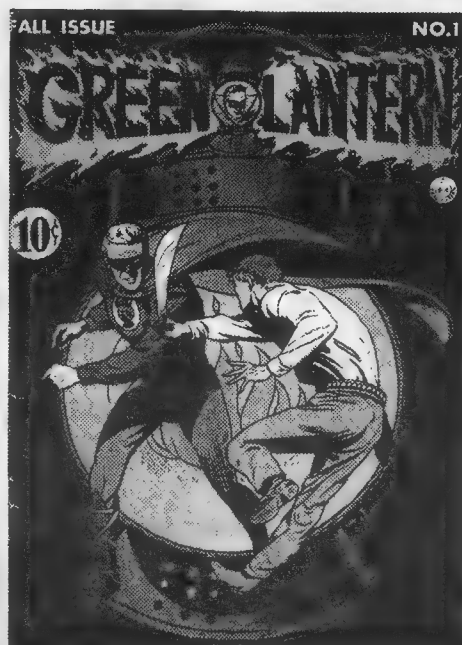
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**GUARANTEED
 UNRESTORED
 GREEN LANTERN
 NO.1**

AUCTION DATES
OCTOBER 19 - 27
CALL NOW !!!!

FINE - OWL 8
TIGHT, FLAT, NICE COLORS,
SUPPLE PAGES, OVERALL GOOD
REPRESENTATION OF GRADE

MINIMUM BID
\$7,500

COSMIC COMIX INC. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID AT ANY TIME

RETAILERS!

**Build store traffic
 and generate sales:
 Sell the leading comic
 publication at no risk.**

COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

**COMICS
 BUYER'S
 GUIDE**

**Call Krause Publication's Bulk
 Sales Dept. for a free sample copy
 and more information, or write to
 us at 700 E. State St.,
 Iola, WI 54990-0001.**

TRADERS

Trader ads are available for \$40.00 each. Traders are designed by the advertiser on 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" paper. We reduce the ad to 3-1/4" x 3-1/4" size. Trader ads are a low cost form of advertising. Because of this, CBG does not typeset, screen photos, add logos, artwork or credit card symbols to Trader ads.

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HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING THE LAST 2 MONTHS OF THE CBG AVALANCHE AD CYCLE??
1000's of Bagged Sets, Gold & Silver Age, Long Whites, Silver Age 1/2 guide #1232 p 55; #1233 p 63; #1234 p 39; #1238 p 27; #1239 p 39; #1240 p 45; #1241 p 39; #1242 p 53; #1245 p 15; #1246 p 35

WE TRADE!!!

ANY Spawn (except 8,11) or Spawn app is worth \$1.25 against anything listed in our ads from CBG # 1226 on. Any issue of Witchblade 1-5 is worth \$10, 6-10 \$3.00, 11 up \$1.50; trade applies to items below as well

Going... (CBG 1239)

UNCIRCULATED GOLD KEY FUNKIES

130 different, incl SCROOGES (104,109,111,112), Scooby, WDC&S, Road Runner, Panther, Donald, Bugs, Mickey, Tweety; VF or better, GREAT!!

OVER \$1000 by Guide, only..... \$300.00 ppd

GOING... PRIMER (Comico) 2

THE indie classic, 1st GRENDL by Matt Wagner

\$90.00 in Wizard, Fan..... \$50.00 ppd

GOING... (CBG 1242)

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Malibu publ at \$7.95 only \$10.00 ppd

SPAWN 8 at \$50 per 100..... GONE!!

THE BIG PICTURE: 20,000 DIFFERENT COMICS FOR.....\$15,000!

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The most extensive comics, film & fantasy catalogue in the world lists
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The following books have been discounted from 20% to 50%. ALL OFFERS WILL BE CONSIDERED. Write or call: Clarence Djuren, 5904 Cardiff Ave., Cocoa, FL 32927
TEL: (407) 633-6437

INCREDIBLE HULK #1 A few creases & minor tears professionally repaired. Color touch-up & re-glued. Square corners, white pages, no chipping. \$1750.00
FANTASTIC FOUR #1 A few upper spine & small cover pieces repaired. Very nice colors, white pages & square corners. No chipping. \$950.00
AMAZING SPIDERMAN #1 A piece on back cover repaired, a few minor back cover tears mended & minor touch-up, all professionally done to give it a WEAR N' RENT appearance. \$1,900.00

SUPERMAN #10 A few back cover pieces & tears repaired with some color touch-up, all professionally done. Excellent appearance & vivid colors. \$850.00
ALL STAR #33 Classic Solomon Grundy cover. NM appearance. One dime-size piece on front cover repaired & minor color touch. \$750.00
TOP KAT #14 NM appearance with a beautiful Black Hood cover. Two tiny back cover tears repaired. \$450.00

FANTASTIC COMICS #4 Pennsylvania copy formerly owned by Bob Overstreet. A very moderate amount of spine wear makes it a fn book. \$650.00
CAPTAIN MIDWINTER #35 (Double cover) Outside cover VF and inside cover NM. Very rare. Exceptional book. \$1500.00
SILENT LIZARD #1 Looks fine or better. Three back cover tears mended & two front cover creases pressed out. Tight spine, square corners. \$650.00

FIGHTING AMERICAN #1 (clones of Cap. America & Rocky) minor staple tears. Nice cover, square corners, & white pages. At least vg or vg+ \$250.00
JUSTICE & LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1 appears to be NM, but back cover spine tears have been repaired; a few front cover creases pressed & c/t. \$850.00
FLASH #37 g+ \$95.00; #37 vg/vg+ \$145.00; #8 g+ \$75.00; #4 g/vg \$175.00;

THRILLING #43 vg/vg+ \$75.00; DETECTIVE #104 fn (some restoration) \$125.00
AMERICA'S GREATEST COMICS #7 fn \$150.00; HEROIC #5 fn store \$1 \$110.00
HUMAN TORCH #16 tiny spine chip. fn+ \$300.00; THE FURNACE #57 (introduction of Captain Midnight) g+ \$120.00; THE FIGHTING YANK #11 vg (Orsola appears) vg \$70.00; CAPTAIN EASY #1 restored; FN appearance (printed 1939/\$160.00)

WORLDY FUNKY COMICS #3 looks nice but some restoration. Second to last page has some side pieces out. \$500.00; SPIRIT SECTIONS (25 of them) from 1940 up. I will trade for AMAZING FANTASY #15 vg up, X-Men #1 of vg up, golden cap. AMERICA MANY MORE BOOKS!! Send SASE for list or e-mail: blackwolf @ greater.net

FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT YOU TODD McFARLANE IN '94!!!
COMIC WAVE '97
The Crowne Plaza Pyramid
Albuquerque New Mexico
November 9, 1997
11:00AM - 6:00 PM
Featured Guests:
JIM LEE
X-MEN #621 (3) WORLD COTS
MEMORIES REBORN - WHITE NIGHT
Dick Sprang
Golden Age Batman Artist!

Sanctioned
MAGIC
The Gathering
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Call for ticket
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Jeff Mariotte
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a new HORROR COMIC
Exhibitor information call
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\$8.00 Pre sale
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CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER FREE!
All children must be accompanied by an adult

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NEW MEXICO
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9AM-3PM

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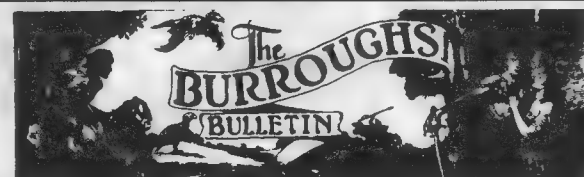
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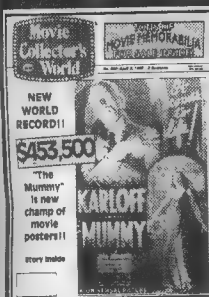
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I KNOW it's out there somewhere! Eternals #19 Fine or better. Tom Callahan, 328 Beach Ave., Staten Island, NY 10306. 212-637-6537 daytime.

4216 PLATINUM AGE WANTED

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4220 SCIENCE FICTION/HORROR FOR SALE

MYSTERY TALES #1 VF \$350; Spellbound #1 VG- \$90; This Magazine Is Haunted #1 G/VG \$75; Eerie #1 VG- \$70; Roland 214-750-7015 (7pm-10pm CST).

GASP #1 VG #2 FN #3 F/VF all 3 books for \$20. Herbie #16 FA \$2. Damion 520-571-8409 (PST). chillhill@aol.com

TALES FROM the Crypt (EC) #22 \$155, #23 \$118, #29 \$90, #33 \$135. All Fine. MO only. No calls. R. Bowden, 1907 Texas, Rantoul, KS 66079-9037.

WEB OF Evil 19, 20 Fair \$10 each, Beware Terror Tales 6 G+ \$30, Fantastic 8 VG \$60, Strange Tales 32 G+ \$35. Fred 201-864-2252.

STRANGE WORLDS #5 (Avon), wood classic! Auction, ends Oct. 18, watch for ad. Hitler covers, Timely, GGA, Wonder, more killer comics. Call to pre-register. 606-231-8342.

MEGO LOOSE, Iron-Man, \$60 ppd. MO only. Before RoboCop, There Was Iron Man! Robert B. Lloyd, 4 Woodlawn Terr., Norwich, CT 06360-6413.

STAR TREK and Star Wars on sale! Comics, cards, books, toys! Up to 50% off! Send a S.A.S.E. for list. Dean's Comics, 319 N. 11th, Salina, KS 67401.

AMAZING DETECTIVE 11 VG \$38, Baffling 26 VF \$60, Strange Tales 35 F \$70, Unseen 7 VG \$45, Astonishing 11 VG \$45. Scott 214-348-7791.

SUSPENSE 29 G \$17, Web of Evil 18 G \$20, Strange Mysteries 4 G+ \$25, more. Richard 805-252-3509.

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THING 14 Ditko VG+ \$135, Shock Theater Topps 1975, 51 trading cards, US test set, Hammer Horror Bloody color Ex-NM, \$275. Fred 201-864-2252.

4221 SCIENCE FICTION/HORROR WANTED

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STEPHEN KING, Dean Koontz and John Saul hardcover books, signed/limited editions, wanted. Send list to King Collector, 610 Surrey Glen Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739-9731.

DITKO HORROR needed: Thing 12, 13, 14; This Magazine Haunted 18, 19. Lower grades OK, paying guide. Steve Sibra, Box 9055, Missoula, MT 59807. 406-542-8270.

WANTED: "LIGHT YEARS" 1988 French animation. David Hissong, 17931 New Gambier Rd., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050.

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WONDER WARTHOG magazine #2 1967 VG- \$25. Box 1987, Mishawaka, IN 46546. BenJolson@aol.com

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R. CRUMB sketchbook, (German) November 1974 to January 1978, first printing. Warren Snider, 1842 E. Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107-4725. 626-796-1054. sniderw@delphi.com

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LADY DEATH #1 Chromium Mint \$45, #3 \$19, Shi #1 \$29, #2 \$15, postage \$2. Eagle Collectibles, 3338 Appel Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102. 412-831-3989.

BONE for sale 1(2nd) \$10, 2 (1st) \$60, 3 (1st) \$30. Dave Burns, 6687 Parma Park Blvd., Parma Heights, OH 44130.

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INDIES of all sorts 2 32¢ stamps get you our huge listing. Sandra DeFazio, 70 Cody Place, Staten Island, NY 10312. E-mail list: comicman@msn.com

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WILL DO painted sketch in exchange for Innovations Dark Shadows vol.3 #1, Hitchcock's Psycho or pay cash. Felipe, 817 W. Oak, Ft. Collins, CO 80521. 970-224-5534.

ROCHMILL VOL.1, #2 needed. Sam Roberts, 1818 34th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122.

1980S INDEPENDENT titles: Dark Wolf, Stealth Force, Metacops, Scimidar, Agent Unknown, The Liberator! All issues wanted! Mike Valero, 7240 Ranchito Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91405.

\$1 EACH for Buck GoDot #5; Nowhere's Ville #3, #4; Cyclops #1; Green Hornet #23 (now); Rocket Ranger #6; Cold Eden vol.1 #1; Negative Burn #25. Mark Klein, 147-09 78th Rd., Flushing, NY 11367.

MAGE FROM Comico wanted as a complete set, plus #0. Also looking for various Magnus issues. Howard Michaels, Jr., 706 N. Cottage, Mercer, PA 16137-9319.

ALL ISSUES of 1980s Independent titles: The Liberator, Agent Unknown, Dark Wolf, Scimidar, Metacops, Stealth Force! Mike Valero, 7240 Ranchito Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91405.

COMICS LIT back issues wanted. Anything after #4. Sam Roberts, 1818 34th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122.

H-BOMB #1 wanted by Antarctic Press, paying \$10 an issue. Contact Russell Whipple, 14 Dennison Ave., Whitesboro, NY 13492.

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GIANTESS, BE comics wanted. Silbuster, Ogenki Clinic, etc. E-mail: SGHB03A@Prodigy.com

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670 WESTERN collection for sale, \$13,055 value, 50% off \$5,250 for all. John Motz, Rt. 1, Box 516, Fort Branch, IN 47648. 812-729-7264.

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21 PAGES great stuff (low prices!) Comic Books, BLB's, newspaper strips, S-F magazines, paperbacks, much more! \$2 (refundable). Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Drive, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 3N6.

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STR ADV precode. Also showcase MIS, HOS: 1950's. Send SASE. Len Helfgott, PO Box 432, New Milford, NJ 07666. 201-837-7577.

SUPERMAN 3-D Good, no glasses, \$50 or trade, have other 1950s 3-D comics to sell or trade. Ray Storch, 466 Hudson, Oakland, CA 94618.

TALES OF the Marines 4, Navy Action 10, War Adventures 7, \$6 each, postage included. Robert Bowles, 219 First St., Rockwood, TN 37854.

MORE FUN comics 9, 4/36. Fine plus. Absolutely unrestored, beautiful book great paper quality \$3,500. Work 202-767-1912, Home 703-536-0367.

FAMOUS FUNNIES. 3 first Buck Rogers G/VG 650. More Fun 17. Coverless Superman prototype 200. More Fun 24, coverless 75. Work 202-767-1912, home 703-536-0367.

MARVEL MYSTERY 13 Wrong back cover. Missing last page. Glue but no tape. Paper very good condition, \$200. Jim Haynes 414-876-3295.

JUGHEAD #1FN \$300, Big Shot #14VG/FN \$90, Blackhawk #21VG \$75, #50VG \$50, #93VG \$30, Capt. Marvel Adv. #8FN/VF \$375, #48VF/NM \$180. David 315-622-3993.

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COVERLESS WONDER Woman 57 \$12.50. Mark Drammont, 1302 N. 49th St., Apt. 10, Omaha, NE 68132. 402-553-5804, after 7pm.

OUR GANG: 15 VF- \$104; 14-19 F \$53 ea; 20 VG+ \$39; 21, 25 F \$35 ea; 26 VF \$73; 27 F+ \$38; 27 F \$35; 33 F+ \$27. Tarzan 4C 161 VG+ \$99. Dave 619-465-3090 references.

COVERLESS: ZIP #9 Gd/VG \$30. Zip #12 Gd/VG \$20. Target #4 Gd \$35. Green Lantern #16 VG \$35. Leo 412-342-2156 after 8pm Est.

WHITE INDIAN #13 G/VG/VF-, sp worn and long crease fc. Insides all Frazetta! \$23 postpaid. Jeff Patton, 3621 Carolina St NW, Massillon, OH 44636-3201. 301-478-0313.

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GI SWEETHEARTS 43, Hi-School Romance 54, Intimate Love 12, Personal Love Vol. 2 #6, Thrilling Romances #9, \$10 each ppd. Cliff Gemmell, POB 740982, Arvada, CO 80006.

ALL STAR #12 Very Good \$350, All Star #13 Good- \$200, All Star #19 Poor \$100 (brittle). Paris 707-826-9289, PST.

COVERLESS: SHOWCASE 9 \$99, Batman 8 (?) CFO \$40, 40 \$23, 52 \$16, 69 \$12, 72 \$11, 74 \$11. Tim, Box 43, Manhattan, KS 66505. 785-539-2154.

ALL SELECT #4 VF \$750, will consider trades for pre-code horror, Esoterics, original art. 900 Henderson Ave. #2408, Houston, TX 77058, 281-335-7355, after 7pm.

CONTACT #6 LB Cole FC, looks VG but has rough spine so overall FA \$30, Jackpot #5 Coverless nice pages \$40. Damion 520-571-8409, (PST).

MORE FUN #19 (ad for Detective #1) piece off \$285, #32 (ad for Action #1) G/VG \$395, #33 G/VG \$195. Cliff 978-927-4024.

ALL-AMERICAN 23 \$710, All-Star comics 6, \$860. Both apparent FN with moderate professional reconstruction to spine. Phoenix Enterprises, 223 Fairview Rd., Erin, NY 14838. 607-796-2547.

ALRIGHT! REDUCED World's Finest #3 coverless for \$50 postpaid. I'll supply color copies of cover and missing Superman pages if requested. Keith Hammond 606-356-0087.

DICK TRACY 61 VG, 68 VG, 75 VG, ea. \$12; 85 VG, 90 VG, 117 VG, ea. \$8.50. Donald Puff, 500 Walton, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. 716-834-0996.

ADVENTURE COMICS #95 Simon and Kirby Sandman Cover, Good/Good+ condition \$100. Derek 919-383-6418, evenings, EST.

BATMAN 140 June 1961 back cover black and white xerox \$10. Batman 142 1961 \$19, postage included. Robert Bowles, 219 First St., Rockwood, TN 37854.

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PRE-CODE ATLAS! Adventures Terror #2 (44) VG- \$58; Mystic #29 VG \$35; #32 VG \$35; #33 Good+ \$22; Spellbound #10 Good+ \$24; #22 \$29. Andy 212-260-8393.

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WILL TRADE for GA comics. Have Gold/Silver to trade. Send me your list and I'll send mine. Barrett, 6328 Eliot St., Long Beach, CA 90803.

WANTED: NEGRO Romance #2 & This Magazine is Haunted #3. Condition: G/VG. Contact: Dennis Brennan, 94-30 59 Ave., Rego Park, NY 11373.

COVERS FOR: Skippy's Own Book of Comics, Flash Comics #45, Superman #60, Detective #211, Batman #114, Showcase #10. Ed, 5523 Cynthia Dr., Roanoke, VA 24018.

WILL TRADE for GA Comics. Have Gold/Silver to trade. Send me your list, and I'll send mine. Barrett, 6328 Eliot, Long Beach, CA 90803.

STILL LOOKING for Negro Romance #2 & This Magazine is Haunted #3. Condition GD/VG. Contact: Dennis Brennan, 94-30 59th Ave., Rego Park, NY 11373.

DOC SAVAGE comics Vol. 1, #1. Contact Mike Coppo, 724 Shade Tree Drive, Austin, TX 78748.

PAYING OVER guide for high grade Seven Seas Comics, Weird Horrors, Sunny, Junior, Western Bandit Trails, Ghost Comics. Sensation Comics. Shaun Clancy 425-486-9293.

DITKO WANTED Strange Suspense Stories 18-20, This Magazine is Haunted 16-19, Daring Love 1, Thing 12-15, Blazing Western 1. Dennis 541-485-3414.

NEED INCOMPLETE copies of: Adventure 32, Capt. America 4, 32, 58, 64, 75-78, Detective 18, 31. Please call if you have incomplete GA for sale/ trade. 919-682-0302.

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WANT TO buy GA low- grade DC's also buying out GA collections. No collections too small. Lets make a deal!!! Shannon McIntosh, PO Box 155, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. 304-489-9307.

ZIP 17 Crime Does Not Pay 24 Real Live 3 Capt. Flight 3 & 5, Capt. Aero 9, My Love 4. Charles Laporte, PO Box 294, Niles, MI 49120.

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WANTED: COVERLESS copy of Detective 66, also need coverless, copy of Showcase #4. E-mail: dford@netlabs.net 908-495-0184.

WANTED: FEATURE books 12, 27, 34 (Blondie), Little Lulu 260, Famous Funnies 190. Reply with info to Punnies, 11 Southill Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

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TARGET #7, Jumbo #10, All-American #11, Buck Rogers #1, Mystery Men #2, 6, 9, Planet Comics #3, Famous Funnies #212-216. Top dollar paid. Paul 505-995-0655. dedo@ix.netcom.com

REASONABLY PRICED copies Spy Smasher #2, #4, #5, #7, #8, #9. Buy or trade. 718-698-4210.

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NEED CENTERFOLDS for Wonder World #22 and four color #159, Donald Duck "Ghost of the Grotto". Larry Sutliff, 11021 Rennard St., Philadelphia, PA 19116.

4301 GOLDEN AGE, WANTED

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DETECTIVE #66 incomplete, coverless or fair to poor wanted. Also Verotika #4 (just curious). L.B. Smith, Box 664, Plover, WI 54467.

WEIRD TERROR 1-13; Horrific 1-13; Weird Tales of the Future 2-5; Weird Mysteries 1-12; Black Cat 35, 43, 47, 50. Dennis 541-485-3414.

4310 SILVER AGE, FOR SALE

GI COMBAT, Our Fighting Forces, Star Spangled War Stories, Fightin' Army, Fightin' Marines and more. Send SASE. Ed, 5523 Cynthia Dr., Roanoke, VA 24018.

ASM #1 Fine \$2,600; #2 Fine \$550; #5 VF+ \$850. 904-755-9278, 904-755-2516.

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FLASH 185-200 \$230, Rawhide Kid 68-82 (-78) \$175, Not Brand Echh 1-13 \$130, Tarzan 207-229 \$140, Teen Titans 31-40 42-53 \$110. All NM!! Mike 508-937-0990.

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OUR FIGHTING Forces 1 Fine \$300. FF 8 VG/F \$150. X-Men 94 VF- \$200. Planet Comics 73 last one VG/F \$100. Work 202-767-1912, home 703-536-0367.

SHOWCASE 15, 18, 20, 24, 25, more Str. Advent. 73, 117, 150, 184, more MUS Space 10-13, 37, more G- to VG+. Len 201-837-7577.

AVENGERS #1. Marvel. Fine. Excellent copy. Priced to sell. \$700 PPD. Sunny Rissman, 14447 Bensley, Burnham, IL 60633. 708-868-4806.

COMPLETE RUNS of Marvel and SA DC's for sale. Please send list of specific wants and grades. Giroux, 116 W. Echo Ln., Phoenix, AZ 85021.

LET'S TRADE! Superboy 136VF \$14. Rip Hunter 19VG \$15. Sgt. Rock 302VFN \$18. Gary Banks, 1406 Wisteria St. SE, Cumlan, AL 35055. Others available.

FOR SALE: Amazing Spider-Man #5 (good) \$95, #8 (good) \$55, #11 (VG), 33-35 (VF) \$50 ea. Rick Waugh, 4001 W. 242nd St. #A-4, Torrance, CA 90505. 310-373-3831.

KEY ISSUES: Fantastic Four #5 NM \$3,000; Brave and the Bold #34 VF/NM \$1,500; Amazing Spider-Man #14 VF/NM \$1,500; Avengers #4 VF/NM \$1,500; Flash #123 VF/NM \$750; Showcase #30 VF \$450; Silver Surfer #1 VF \$350. Call John at 714-633-9827.

FANTASTIC FOUR #5 VG, #7 VG/F, #16 G/VG, #22 VG+, #26 VG+, #27 VG+, more, 50% guide. Steve Spilger, 16830 Barrington Court, Granger, IN 46530.

FOR SALE: Superboy #28 (FN) \$70, #33 (VG) \$35, #100 (FN/VFN) \$100, Brave & Bold #9 (VG) \$50, #79, 82, 83 (NM) \$30@. Rich Waugh, 4001 W 242nd St. #A-4, Torrance, CA 90505. 310-373-3831.

AVENGERS (G.K.) #1 FN \$68, Johnny Quest #1 Fr/Gd \$22.50, High Chaparral #1 VG/FN \$10, Superman #199 VG-\$48, Green Lantern #59 FN \$86. Colin 414-962-5547 evenings.

TAKE 25% off! Flash #112 F \$135, Green Lantern #76 F \$60, Marvel Spotlight #5 NM \$110, Lois Lane #71 VF \$50. Allen 919-447-5946.

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MILTON CANIFF NBM hardback book(s) wanted with Terry and Pirates Sunday sections reprinted from 1946. Please write: Bill Bush, PO Box 61868, Houston, TX 77208-1868.

PAYING DOUBLE Overstreet for Terry Drake's 1-5 #7, #8, #30-33, VF-mint. Donn Albright, 3 Cherry Lane, Westfield, NJ 07090.

"KUBLA KHAN: A pop-up version of Coleridge's Classic" by Nick Bantock. Send info to: Andrew Berrier, 557 E. Liberty St., Chambersburg, PA 17201.

"CAT IN the Box" by Dana Michel (Wonder Books, 1963); (Easy Reader children's book). Richard, PO Box 68256, Indianapolis, IN 46268. 317-858-0630. bigfatcat@aol.com

MILT GROSS, "He Done Her Wrong", do you have a spare copy you could part with? Eric Morey, PO Box 322, Woodacre, CA 94973-0322. 415-488-0649.

4661 MISCELLANEOUS, WANTED

PHANTOM OF the Paradise: Paperback book, 7" promo single, sheet music book, script, promo items. John Adams, 97 Willow St., Lockport, NY 14094-4856. E-mail: JQAIII@aol.com

THE CROW "I'm Not Dead, Yet" T-shirt from 1991. Also 1993 Ohio/Detroit? Coin Exclusive "I Know Why Jesus Wept..." T-Shirt. Brett 215-788-3539.

WANTED: ORIGINAL Disney animated VHS feature "Lady and the Tramp" (and I need a free computer!). Steven Zanzil Sawolkin, 228-G Freedom Dr., Belleville, IL 62226.

BUYING DENNISON Bogie Books in Fine or better, also other old Halloween items. Send photo and price to: Dave, 7002 Baltimore Pike, Oxford, PA 19363.

SUPERMARIONATION: TOYS, annuals, comics; especially Stingray, Supercar, Fireball XL-5. Sam Bruce, 3303 Abingdon Rd., Columbia, SC 29203-5502.

SPORTS CARDS and unopened boxes especially hockey-have comics, toys and various collectibles to trade. Paul Bocci, 53 Berkeley St., Valley Stream, NY 11581. 516-791-2182.

WANTED: MCDONALD'S Happy Meal paper placemat dated 1995, artwork by Mike Wieringo, features Spider-Man, Hob-Goblin in game format. Tom Vanko, 2810 Walnut, Homewood, IL 60430-1524.

MARVEL BULLPEN autographs wanted! Kirby, Ditko, Lee, etc. Also buying Captain Action, Dr. Evil, Lost in Space toys; cereal premiums, Quisp/Quake. Aaron 919-954-7111.

CUSTOM/HOMEMADE ACTION figures or Statues of DCs Warlord, The JLA, Avengers, Martin Manhunter or Red Tornado. Write: Kirk Philbrick, 11140 Maple St., Cleveland, TX 77327.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES wanted! Any 1960s-70s Superhero/TV show costumes; Captain Action, Dr. Evil toys; Batman utility belt; John Romita Sr. Spider-Man art. Aaron 919-954-7111.

4700 NOVELTIES, TOYS, GAMES FOR SALE

THE PHANTOM "Skull Ring" premium give-away from 1996's movie. Solid heavy metal, \$11 shipped. John Olsen, PO Box 181, Newberg, OR 97132. E-mail: jrolsen@teleport.com

STAR WARS cheap, MIB, vehicles and playsets at loose prices, figures at 65% of guide, \$4 in bulk! Call/ Fax wants. ALNBE 773-238-5059, Fax 708-423-0460 #295.

STAR WARS, Spawn, Star Trek, X-Men and more. Kaybee, two peck, only 20,000 made, \$150. Tim 602-982-1362.

4700 NOVELTIES, TOYS, GAMES FOR SALE

1960 BARBIE game, complete, all pieces and board. Box has small hole and tape, \$100 postpaid paid. Kuzner, 1806 W. 4th St., Dunellen, NJ 08812.

TRANSFORMERS, GOBOTS, Kronoform, Robotech, Bandai, all boxed-carded. Send wants, or \$2 and SASE for listings. John Fawcett, Box 1156, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

ELEKTRA X-MEN light-ups (scarce) \$30 Guide value. Mint in box, two left, only \$15 postpaid. Serge Fidlon, 19221 Sherman Way #21, Reseda, CA 91335.

MOLTEN MAN, Kitty Pryde, Punisher mail-away figures \$50 postpaid each. Spirit of Obi-Wan Kenobi Lays mail-away \$25 postpaid. Steven Pearlman 973-857-3960.

MARVEL ITEMS: Marvel World Playset (Amsco 1970's), mint, sealed \$220; Golden Record Avengers #4 1966 mint sealed with comic \$300. Bruce 814-535-5419 (EST).

MARVEL ITEMS: Captain America Superbaby (Amsco) MIB \$60; Peter Parker Mega mint \$1,100; Spider-Man Captain Action mint complete, NM doll, \$1,300. Bruce 814-535-5419 (EST).

THE TICK! Limited Edition button set! 1989 #4837 on card, in plastic \$25. Rudy Rankins, 5706 Broadway-13, Pearlard, TX 77581. 281-997-7506.

STARTING LINEUP Classic Doubles 1997 Aaron-Robinson, Griffey-Griffey, Ripken-Robinson, McGuire-Maris, Ruth-Thomas, Ryan-Johnson, \$30 each. Free shipping. Mark 918-836-3718, 918-455-8334.

ACTION FIGURES! Monster Force (7) \$25; Real Monsters (11) \$32; Cryptkeeper (7+) \$26; Waterworld (8+) \$35; Earthworm Jim (8+ Rocket) \$43. All MIB/MOC. Rick 916-568-7711.

BEANIE BABIES: Buying and selling Beanie's. Need retired ones. Call 208-529-5717. Send want lists to: Captain Comics, 2095 E. 17th St., Idaho Falls, ID 83404.

STAR WARS 12" AT-AT Driver \$45, Yak Face \$15, Prisoner Leia \$25, Leia-Bike \$25, 12" Ben \$45, 12" Batgirl \$40. Free shipping. Mark 918-836-3718, 918-455-8334.

"MIGHTY HERCULES" magic slate of license plate (NM) \$80 each. "House of Terror" 3-D comic (NM) \$260. Talking "Woody" doll \$30. Talking "Tick" \$50. 562-949-1422.

4701 NOVELTIES, TOYS, GAMES WANTED

SPIDER-MAN ITEMS wanted by foremost U.S. collector. All types of items; old, new, packaged, loose. Anything Spider-Man related, including villains. Bruce 814-535-5419 (east coast).

MARVEL COMICS items wanted. All types of items from pre-1974. Toys, MMMS, Marvelmania, posters, mail-aways, etc. Bruce 814-535-5419 (east coast).

SUPERMAN WANTED! You need money? I got lots of money! Sell me your pre-1970 Superman toys, premiums, anything! Danny Fuchs, 209-80 18th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360.

BATMAN PROPS from the movies and TV series. Also want licensed Batman deluxe costume from Batman Forever or Batman and Robin movies. Chuck 703-243-0720.

VIEW-MASTER PACKETS wanted. Will buy or trade for comics. 603-645-4461 after 6pm or e-mail at zsafran@concentric.net Thanks!

MAXIMUM CLONAGE 8-pack wanted. BJ's exclusive. Buy or trade. Send info to: Paul Spreckelmeyer, 32 N. McLean Blvd. #3, Memphis, TN 38104.

BUYING OLD Battletech House Books, Star League, Dropships, etc. Send list with price and condition to: Mike, PO Box 5203, Kendall Park, NJ 08824.

4720 VIDEO GAMES FOR SALE

SUPER NINETENDO, Spider-Man, Separation Anxiety cartridge, sealed, \$20 + postage. 2 Nintendo Guns, \$20 each. Sam 904-725-4920, evenings.

4800 FANZINES, FOR SALE

MENOMONEE FALLS Gazette 1972-1976, Cartoonist Showcase, Cartoonist Profiles, RBCC, many others. Adventure Zone Comics, 2433 South Paseo Loma Circle, Mesa, AZ 85202. 602-897-1359.

ARGOSY Comic Book Price Guide First Historical Edition represents entire 1965 guide plus historical overview, illustrations, commentary, \$5 postpaid! Quasar, PO Box 2227, Louisville, KY 40201-2227.

JAPANESE ANIMATION fanzine, club, video discounts. News, reviews, articles, translations, classifieds, pen pals, synopses, manga, art. Send SASE. Anime Hasshin, PO Box 5121, Manchester, NH 03108.

ORIGINS OF Aquaman, Vision, Sentinels, Little Wise Guys, ACG and the Parasite discussed in IAF #46, \$3. Gene Kehoe, 1421 Berth Ave., Waterloo, IA 50702.

4800 FANZINES, FOR SALE

YELLOWBACK LIBRARY for collectors of Rick Brant, Ken Holt, other series. Monthly. Sample issues \$3. Box 36172, Des Moines, IA 50315.

4900 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, FOR SALE

BIG SUNDAY comic list, \$1 (refundable). I also buy Sunday comics before 1960, pulp magazines, Edgar Rice Burrough's books. Claude Held, Box 515, Buffalo, NY 14225.

PICK OUT dates. Daily and Sunday. Great Selection. 1895 to 1996. Send your wantlist and SASE to: Gordon Campbell, 1124 Brookmeade Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

LARGE LIST of Sunday pages, sections, dailies, 1910-1970's, copy \$1 (refundable). Always buying! Send "wantlists". Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Dr., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 3N6.

TARZAN & Prince Valiant Sunday pages from the 1930's & up, 2,000 Sunday sections from 60's, 70's & 80's. Send for complete catalog Adventure Zone Comics, 2433 South Paseo Loma Circle, Mesa, AZ 85202. 602-897-1359.

TARZAN & Prince Valiant Sunday pages from the 1930's & up, 2,000 Sunday sections from 60's, 70's & 80's. Send for complete catalog Adventure Zone Comics, 2433 South Paseo Loma Circle, Mesa, AZ 85202. 602-897-1359.

CHARLES SCHULZ subscribes to Hogan's Alley- shouldn't you! For fans of comic strips, books. Sample issue \$7. Hogan's Alley, PO Box 47684, Atlanta, GA 30362.

SUNDAYS/ DAILIES Sell/ buy. Starland strips. Phone/ Fax 510-666-0732.

PRINCE VALIANT (1947-1952) for sale/trade for original adventure strip art. Strip catalogs wanted! Dave Karlen, 5130 Blanchard, Dallas, TX 75227. 800-727-7699, extension 558-1700.

4901 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, WANTED

WANTED: A complete set of Batman and Robin comics, from 1943 to 1946, of any Sundays. Write to: Alfred Sherman, 247 Parkview Ave., Apt. 5P, Bronxville, NY 10708-1324.

NY JOURNAL of World Sundays 1901-05, Lady Bountiful strips, copies, information, pre-1940s female heroes; funny man. Harry Miller, 190 Peach Blossom Ln., Bowling Green, KY 42103.

AUSTRALIAN PHANTOM comics, annuals wanted. Also foreign English language collections of Brick Bradford, Mandrake, etc. Andrew Pepoy, 2054 Kildaire Farm Rd. #200, Cary, NC 27511.

COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

FREE CLASSIFIED WORD ADS

For Comics Buyer's Guide Subscribers!!!

Classifieds are a great place to advertise if you want to buy or sell comics, and now CBG subscribers can place classified word ads for **FREE!**

This offer is limited to CBG subscribers only. You can place one **FREE CLASSIFIED** ad in every weekly issue of **COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE** until this offer expires. These ads must be 25 words or less and fall under the available classifications listed below. Free classified ads must be submitted on the original free ad form you will find every week in **COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE**. Send in one ad every week, but send no money, these ads are absolutely **FREE!**

Classifications Available For Free Ads

4050 Small Press, For Sale
4051 Small Press, Wanted
4100 Archie, For Sale
4101 Archie, Wanted
4110 Black & White, For Sale
4111 Black & White, Wanted
4120 Classic, For Sale
4121 Classic, Wanted
4122 Comic Collections, For Sale
4123 Comic Collections, Wanted
4128 Dark Horse Wanted, For Sale
4130 DC, For Sale
4131 DC, Wanted
4140 Dell/Gold Key/Whitman, For Sale
4141 Dell/Gold Key/Whitman, Wanted
4150 Disney, For Sale
4151 Disney, Wanted
4160 EC, For Sale
4161 EC, Wanted
4170 Fawcett, For Sale
4171 Fawcett, Wanted
4180 Foreign, For Sale
4181 Foreign, Wanted
4190 Harvey, For Sale
4191 Harvey, Wanted
4200 Humor/Funny Animals, For Sale
4201 Humor/Funny Animals, Wanted

4204 Image, Wanted/For Sale
4207 Malibu, Wanted/For Sale
4210 Marvel/Timeless, For Sale
4211 Marvel/Timeless, Wanted
4220 Science Fiction/Horror, For Sale
4221 Science Fiction/Horror, Wanted
4240 Underground, For Sale
4241 Underground, Wanted
4250 Independents, For Sale
4251 Independents, Wanted
4255 Valiant/Voyager, Wanted/For Sale
4260 Westerns, For Sale
4261 Westerns, Wanted
4300 Golden Age
4301 Golden Age, Wanted
4310 Silver Age, For Sale
4311 Silver Age, Wanted
4320 General Comics, For Sale
4321 General Comics, Wanted
4400 Original Art, For Sale
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4410 Big Little Books, For Sale
4411 Big Little Books, Wanted
4420 Books - General, For Sale
4421 Books - General, Wanted
4430 Paperbacks, For Sale
4431 Paperbacks, Wanted

4440 Pulp, For Sale
4441 Pulp, Wanted
4450 Magazines, For Sale
4451 Magazines, Wanted
4452 Science Fiction, For Sale
4453 Science Fiction, Wanted
4600 Reprints, For Sale
4601 Reprints, Wanted
4605 Phone Cards, For Sale
4606 Phone Cards, Wanted
4610 Portfolios/Posters, For Sale
4611 Portfolios/Posters, Wanted
4630 Trading Cards, For Sale
4631 Trading Cards, Wanted
4650 Oldtime Radio, For Sale
4651 Oldtime Radio, Wanted
4660 Miscellaneous, For Sale
4661 Miscellaneous, Wanted
4700 Novelties/Toys/Games, For Sale
4701 Novelties/Toys/Games, Wanted
4720 Video Games, For Sale
4721 Video Games, Wanted
4800 Fanzines, For Sale
4801 Fanzines, Wanted
4900 Newspaper Strips, For Sale
4901 Newspaper Strips, Wanted

REQUIREMENTS FOR FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

- Free classified offer is available to **COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE** subscribers only.
- One free classified ad per subscriber per week.
- Free classified ads must be submitted on this original form. There will be a new form in each issue. **NO PHOTOCOPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- Free classified ads must list only specific comics and related items you wish to buy, sell or trade. See the available classifications listed on this page.
- Sorry... we cannot accept ads for price list or want list solicitations.
- Free classified word ads must be 25 words or less including any name, address & telephone number. Those ads running over the 25 word limit are subject to editing and/or rejection.
- Free classified ads are not transferable.

Please print and punctuate

Classification # _____

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

Make sure your address is listed above exactly as you wish it to appear in the ad. When post office box number is used, we require your complete name and street address below for our files.

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Advertising deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 4 for the Nov. 28, 1997 issue.

COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

Mail to:
COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE
Dept. CX, 700 E. State Street
Iola, WI 54990-0001

4901 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, WANTED

SUNDAY COMICS wanted. Large collections 1900-1960 immediate cash trades available. Peter Maresca, 450 Monroe Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94306, petestrips@aol.com Phone/FAX: 415-941-7988.



EVENTS

(From Page 56)

- Nov 7-9 TX**, Dallas. 19th Big-D Super Collectibles Show, Sheraton Park Central. Hwy. 635 & Coit Rd., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm, F: \$30-\$40, A: \$5. Don Maris, PO Box 200725, Arlington, TX 76006. PH: 817-261-8745.
- Nov 9 TX**, Houston. Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn Select. 2712 Southwest Freeway at Kirby, SH: 10am-4pm, A: \$4, \$2. ages 6-11. Larry Taylor, PH: 713-667-8697.
- Nov 9 TX**, Austin. Comic Book, Sports Card, Action Figures & Starting Lineups Show, Four Points Sheraton Hotel. I-35 at Hwy. 183, SH: 10am-5pm, F: \$40, for 1, \$75, for 2, \$100, for 3, A: \$1.50. PH: 512-442-8876.
- Nov 15-16 TX**, Austin. Collectors Expo, Palmer Auditorium, (lower level). South First & Riverside, SH: Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 220, F: \$80, A: \$3. good for 2 days, under 12 free with adult. Sally Wallace, 6702 Lexington Rd., Austin, TX 78757. PH: 512-454-9882.
- Nov 15 TX**, Arlington. Comic Book, Action Figure & Toy Show, Vandergriff Park. TI Productions, 212 Colonial Cir., Athens, TX 75751. PH: 903-675-4670.

VIRGINIA

- Nov 1-2 VA**, Virginia Beach. Comic Book, Sports & Non-Sports Card & Racing Show, Pembroke Mall. Intersection of Independence & Virginia Beach Blvd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12:30pm-5:30pm, T: 100-8, F: \$110-\$130, A: free. Larry Webster, 4406 Holland Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452. PH: 757-486-0215.
- Nov 15 VA**, Tysons Corner. Comic Book & Gaming Card Show, Westpark Hotel. Exit 10 W. (Rt. 7) off I-495 (Washington Beltway), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6, F: \$65, for 1st, \$60, for 2nd, \$55. ea. add'l., A: \$2, under 5 free. Jeffrey Rocco, 7952 Arden Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993 or FAX: 703-883-3997.

WASHINGTON

- Oct 25-26 WA**, Spokane. Comic Book & Sports Card Super Show, Franklin Park Mall. S. 5628 Division, SH: Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 40, F: \$35-\$75, A: free. Twin Oaks Sportshows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1309-8th St., #411, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.
- Nov 1-2 WA**, Olympia. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Capital Mall (by Penney's). Hwy. 101 Exit off I-5, Black Lake Blvd. Exit off Hwy. 101, SH: Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 30, F: \$40-\$85, A: free. Twin Oaks Sport Shows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1309-8th St. #411, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.
- Nov 15-16 WA**, Kirkland. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Totem

4901 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, WANTED

DOONESBURY WANTED: Daily newspaper strips, original art, posters, articles, etc. Robert Farney, PO Box 341071, Milwaukee, WI 53234. 414-546-4627. rfarney@execpc.com

[Editor's Note: Items for this feature, which lists appearances in comics stores and lecture halls — not conventions — of writers, artists, and editors should be submitted as far in advance as possible. We need your information at least two weeks in advance of the signing to have a sporting chance of getting it in.]

The notices must be written — we cannot take these by telephone — and kept brief, preferably in the format used here. Send to Now Appearing, c/o Comics Buyer's Guide, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990 or fax it (again c/o CBG) to (715) 445-4087.

Lake Mall. Exit 208 E. off I-405, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 60, F: \$40-\$85, A: free. Twin Oaks Sports Shows, Ron & Barb Oakden, 1309 8th St. #411, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

Nov 22 WA, Seattle. Comic Book, Card & Toy Show, Queen Anne Community Ctr. SH: 10am-4pm, T: 75, F: \$25, A: free. Allen Chinn, 1901 1st Avenue W., Seattle, WA 98119. PH: 206-386-4240.

WEST VIRGINIA

Nov 9 WV, Parkersburg. Parkersburg-Marietta Comic Con, Holiday Inn. I-77 at Exit 176 (Rt. 50), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$40, for 1, \$100, for 3, A: \$2, 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

WISCONSIN

- Oct 25-26 WI**, Appleton. Comic Book, Sports, Non-Sports, Racing & Memorabilia Show, Valley Fair Mall. Memorial Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 30-8, F: \$50, A: free. MJ Prod., Mike Kulig, PO Box 132, Onalaska, WI 54650. PH: 608-781-5150.
- Oct 26 WI**, Madison. Vintage-Baby Boomer Collectible Show, American Legion Hall. 4001 Lien Rd., SH: 10am-3pm, T: 40-8, F: \$15. Lisa Fiegel, PH: 414-484-3779.
- Oct 26 WI**, Cedarburg. Comic Book Show, Circle B Recreation. 6261 Hwy. 60, SH: 10am-3pm, F: \$10, for 1, \$25, for 3, A: free. James, PH: 414-338-1805 or 852-7846.
- Oct 26 WI**, Racine. Comic Book, Sports Card, Game & Beanie Baby Show, K of C Hall. I-94 & Hwy. 20, SH: 9am-4pm, T: 40-8, F: \$22, A: 50¢. Bill White, PH: 414-843-4147 or 694-8422.
- Nov 8-9 WI**, Appleton. Comic Book, Non-Sports Card & Racing Show, Valley Fair Mall. Memorial Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 30-8, F: \$50, A: free. MJ Prods., Mike Kulig, PO Box 132, Onalaska, WI 54650. PH: 608-781-5150.

CANADA

Oct 31-Nov 2 ON, Toronto. Primedia '97, Days Inn Hotel. 6527 Airport Rd. (close to Toronto International Airport), SH: Fri. 6pm-10pm, Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 10am-3pm, T: 30-40 6, F: \$50, till Jul 1, \$80, till Sep 30, \$100, at the door, A: \$18, till Sep 30, \$35, at the door. Dimensional Shift, Inc., Cindy Huckle, 68-2035 S. Millway, Mississauga, ON L5L 1R7. PH: 905-820-3844 or 416-759-4026.

FOREIGN

Nov 2 GERMANY, Heidelberg. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Recovery Room, Nachtrichten Kasern. Bldg. 3608, SH: 11am-4:30pm, T: 40, F: \$10, A: free. Chuck Fernandez, HQ 26th ASG, CMR 419, Box 113, APO AE 09102. PH: 011 49 6221 172762 or 011 49 6202 74157.

4901 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, WANTED

WHEN WILL Railroad Red and Spurline come out of the tunnel onto the mainline of my collection? John Malcovsky, 13 Crombie St., Burlington, VT 05401-3612.

Please note: This is a free service.]

October 18

Jenni Gregory (writer/artist of *Dream-walker*), **Andrew Ford** (writer of *Rib*), and **Randy Reynaldo** (writer/artist of *Rob Hanes Justice International* and *Adventure Strip Digest*) at Shining Knight Comics, 1328 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Call (416) 778-8314 for times.

Jill Thompson (*Scary Godmother*) and **Vlad Licina** (*Purgatori CD*) at Keith's Komix, 528 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, Illinois 60193. Call (847) 534-9436 for times.

October 19

Jenni Gregory (writer/artist of *Dream-walker*), **Andrew Ford** (writer of *Rib*), and **Randy Reynaldo** (writer/artist of *Rob Hanes Justice International* and *Adventure Strip Digest*) at Shining Knight Comics, 1328 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Call (416) 778-8314 for times.

October 20

Chris Ware (writer, artist, and creator of *The Acme Novelty Library*) at Comicopia, 464 Commonwealth Ave., (Kenmore Square), Boston, Massachusetts 02215, from 4 to 6 p.m.

October 25

Gary Carlson (*Big Bang*, *TMNT*), **Chris Ecker** (*Big Bang*), and **Ed De George** (*Big Bang*, *Dr. Weird*) at Keith's Komix, 528 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, Illinois 60193. Call (847) 534-9436 for times.

Jill Thompson (artist/writer of *Scary Godmother*) at Chicago Comics, 3244 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60657, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Joyce Chin (*Xena*, *Wynonna Earp*) and **Art Adams** (*Monkeyman* & *O'Brien*, *Gen13/Generation X*) at Metro Comics, 6 W. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Brian Michael Bendis (creator of *A.K.A. Goldfish* and *Jinx*) at Wein's World Comics + Collectibles, 4112-B N. Market St., Wilmington, Delaware 19802, from 2 to 7 p.m.

October 27

Jean-Marc Lofficier (*Superman's Metropolis*, *Tongue Lash*) at the Venice Public Library, 502 S. Venice Blvd., Venice, California beginning at 6 p.m.

November 2

Ken Lashley (*Excalibur*), **Richard Pace** (*New Warriors*, *Rune*, *Starman*), **Jerry Bertolo** (*Savage Dragon* and *Gargoyles* animated series), **Christian Zanier** (*Dark City Angel*), **Marvin Mariano** (*Delgado Creed*), and **Kent Burles** (*Earth Dawn* and *Shadowrun* games) at Alternate Realities, 1910 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4C-1J4, from noon to 6 p.m.

November 6

Lurene Haines (author of *Getting into the Business of Comics*) at Words & Pictures Museum, 140 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts 01060, from 6 to 8 p.m.

November 8

Dave Dorman, **Kevin Eastman**, **Stephen R. Bissette**, **Rick Veitch**, **George Pratt**, **Dave Sim**, **Joe Kubert**, **Bill Sienkiewicz**, **Jeff Jones**, **Jon J. Muth**, and **Scott Hampton** (all will attend a *Heavy Metal* exhibit reception) at Words & Pictures Museum, 140 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts 01060, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tara Jenkins (*Galaxion*) and **Mark Oakley** (*Thieves & Kings*) at Alternate Realities, 1910 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4C-1J4, from noon to 5 p.m.

November 15

Alex Ross (artist of *Uncle Sam* and *Kingdom Come*), and **Steve Darnall** (writer of *Uncle Sam* and *Empty Love Stories*) at Chicago Comics, 3244 N. Clark St., Chicago, Illinois 60657, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Stuart Immonen (*Inferno*), and **Leonard Kirk** (*Supergirl*, *Ultra Girl*, *Deep Space Nine*) at Alternate Realities, 1910 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4C-1J4, from noon to 4 p.m.

November 22

Ty Templeton (*Batman* and *Robin Adventures*) and **Kent Burles** (*Earth Dawn* and *Shadowrun* games) at Alternate Realities, 1910 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4C-1J4, from noon to 4 p.m.

January 17

Bill Morrison (*Roswell*, *Simpsons Comics*) and other Bongo Comics staffers at Metro Comics, 6 W. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Wolff & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre

THE VIGIL CONTINUES IN ROCKINGHAM CEMETERY, WHERE POLICE HAVE SURROUNDED THE CAR OF "COUNT" LEACH—A SUSPECT IN THE SLAYING OF TIFFANY DEVRIES, AN ASPIRING ACTRESS. MS. DEVRIES WAS FOUND DRAINED OF BLOOD WITH TWO PUNCTURE WOUNDS IN HER NECK AT THE RESTAURANT WHERE SHE AND THE "COUNT" HAD BEEN DINING.

"COUNT" LEACH IS A CELEBRATED VAMPIRE WHO HAD COME TO HOLLYWOOD TO STAR IN HIS LIFE STORY FOR QUAGMIRE PICTURES. A SPOKESPERSON FOR QUAGMIRE SAYS THEY STILL INTEND TO GO AHEAD WITH THE FILM. HOWEVER, SCRIPTWRITERS ARE STANDING BY FOR A QUICK REWRITE OF THE LAST SCENES.

WE'RE BACK LIVE AT ROCKINGHAM CEMETERY, WHERE JEFF BYRD, ONE OF THE COUNTS ATTORNEYS, IS READY TO MAKE A STATEMENT...

... MY PARTNER IS WITH MR. LEACH NOW. WE EXPECT OUR CLIENT TO TURN HIMSELF IN PEACEFULLY AND THEN GET ON TO THE MATTER OF PROVING HIS INNOCENCE. IT'S SHAMEFUL THAT ACCUSATIONS ARE HURLED AT OUR CLIENT SIMPLY BECAUSE HE'S A VAMPIRE. HE IS AWARE OF THE PUBLIC'S PREJUDICE, AND THAT'S BEEN HIS LIFETIME CROSS TO BEAR—SO TO SPEAK...



NEXT: HABEAS CORPUS ACTS

Advertising Information

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. PAYMENT:** Ads must be accompanied by payment. You may pay with a check, money order, or credit card.
- B. CREDIT CARDS:** We will accept the following credit cards: VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover.
- C. DEADLINE:** For all advertising is 4:00 p.m. each Tuesday, unless otherwise stated on deadline card.
- D. TERMS:** Cash with copy only. All advertisers must provide information for the confidential use of the publisher should questions arise.
- E. CONTRACT RATES:** are available for 6, 13, 26, or 52 consecutive issues. Contract rates apply to fulfillment of contract items. Cancellation of a contract by the advertiser allows the publisher to reinvoice covered ads at the earned rate. This rate card is a part of the advertising contract.
- F. MINORS:** are required to furnish a statement of responsibility from their parent or guardian before their advertising can be accepted.
- G. ERRORS:** Typewritten copy is recommended. The publisher is not responsible for errors resulting from long-hand or illegible copy, or changes submitted by telephone. The publisher's liability for any error shall not exceed the cost of the space occupied by that error.
- H. LAYOUT** and design services are provided by Krause Publications for advertisers who do not submit camera-ready copy. Due to the creative and subjective nature of these services, credit will not be allowed for conceptual variations.
- I. GRADING:** Items offered in any ad must be properly described as to condition, conforming to the standards set forth in Comics Buyer's Guide Price Guide. Advertisers may also exercise the option of grading offerings by applying a unique personal system, providing the standards applied are detailed in the ad to avoid confusion.
- J. RETURN PRIVILEGE:** Except as otherwise specified in any ad, an advertiser must accept the return of any merchandise postmarked within ten working days of its receipt by a customer.
- K. P.O. BOX ADS** are allowed, but the permanent home address, phone number and place of business of the advertiser must be filed with the publisher before advertisements may be printed.
- L. SPECIAL PAGE POSITIONS** are available at a premium, inquire for details.
- M. ADVERTISING AGENCIES:** There are no agency discounts.
- N. CAMERA READY** display ads qualify for a 15% discount. Copy must be ready for camera without additional paste-up or film work required. No charge for reproductions, enlargements or mail response key change. Classified Display, Comics Trader, Collector's Showcase and classified word ads do not qualify for the camera ready discount.
- O. SPACE RESERVATIONS** available for camera ready ads only. Must be made prior to ad deadline. Reserved space must be paid for even if ad does not arrive on time.
- P. PRE-PRINTED INSERTS** are available in Comics Buyer's Guide. Inquire for additional information and technical specifications.
- Q. CIRCULATION** is throughout the United States and Canada by subscription and single copy sales by agents in shops and other outlets.
- R. PROOF OF PUBLICATION:** Tear sheets of new display ads are mailed to those advertisers requesting this service. We regret we cannot provide this service to classified advertisers.
- S. NOTE:** All advertising orders are accepted subject to the terms and provisions of the current rate card. Krause Publications, Inc. reserves the right to decline advertising or suspend advertising privileges for such periods of time as in its discretion it sees fit, for any reason, whatsoever, irrespective of the validity of the reasons for such declination or suspension. The forwarding of an order is construed as acceptance of all rates and conditions in effect at the time the advertising is submitted. The publisher will not be bound by any conditions, printed or otherwise, appearing on any order for advertising space, billing instructions or copy instructions which conflict with its policies. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for all content (including text representation and illustrations) of advertisements printed, and also assumes responsibility of any claims arising therefrom made against the publisher. It is the advertiser's or agency's responsibility to obtain appropriate releases on any item or individual pictured in their advertising. All agreements are subject to strikes, accidents, acts of God, or other contingencies beyond the publisher's control. The publisher reserves the right to edit any advertising copy to conform with its standard advertising policies, and to reject any ad which in its opinion is unethical or objectionable for any reason.

SEND ADS AND PAYMENT TO:
COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE
 Advertising
 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS

A completed reference form must be in our confidential files before any buy, sell or trade ad can be placed. See below. Minors are required to furnish a statement of responsibility from their parents or guardian before their advertising can be accepted. Payment must accompany an advertisement and must be in the form of a personal check drawn on U.S., Canadian or Mexican bank; money orders; international money orders; cashier's checks; or with your VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover credit card. Send your credit card number, expiration date, and the name on the card, along with permission to charge the card for your ad, with your advertising copy.

REFERENCE FORM

COMPANY NAME _____	
STREET ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE NO. _____	
SOCIAL SECURITY # _____	
TYPE OF BUSINESS _____	
☐ CORPORATION	☐ LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
☐ CO PARTNERSHIP	☐ INDIVIDUAL PROPRIETOR
NO. OF YEARS ESTABLISHED _____	
PRINCIPAL OWNERS - STOCKHOLDERS - PARTNERS - OFFICERS OF COMPANY _____	
NAME _____	
MAILING ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
TITLE _____	
TRADE REFERENCES _____	
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____	
BANK REFERENCE _____	
BANK NAME _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____	
BANKING OFFICIAL _____	
I (we) hereby authorize Krause Publications and/or its credit agent to investigate the references herein or statements or other data obtained from me or any other person pertaining to my credit and financial responsibility. I understand that it is Krause Publications' policy to require cash in advance for all advertising until credit has been established or approved.	
Further, I (we), the undersigned, will be held personally responsible and promise to pay promptly within 15 days of the billing date for all advertising debts incurred by the above named business and owing to Krause Publications.	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) OF APPLICANT(S) _____	

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The advertisers' index is provided as a reader service. Occasional last minute changes may result in ads appearing on pages other than those listed here. The publisher assumes no liability for omissions or errors.

Advertising Deadlines

AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE	AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE
Tues., Oct. 21, 1997	1252	Nov. 14, 1997	Tues., Nov. 11, 1997	1255	Dec. 5, 1997
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Tues., Nov. 4, 1997	1254	Nov. 28, 1997	Tues., Nov. 25, 1997	1257	Dec. 19, 1997

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively)

AD SIZE	ISSUE	ISSUES	ISSUES	ISSUES	ISSUES
A. 2 col. x 2-5/8" (4-7/8" x 2-5/8")	\$97.00	\$95.00	\$93.00	\$89.00	\$81.00
B. 2 col. x 5-3/8" (4-7/8" x 5-3/8") or 4 col. x 2-5/8" (10" x 2-5/8")	\$184.00	\$180.00	\$177.00	\$169.00	\$155.00
C. 2 col. x 11" (4-7/8" x 11") or 4 col. x 5-3/8" (10" x 5-3/8")	\$286.00	\$280.00	\$275.00	\$263.00	\$240.00
D. 4 col. x 11" (10" x 11")	\$515.00	\$505.00	\$494.00	\$474.00	\$433.00

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY

(Cost per ad: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts.)

AD SIZE	ISSUE	ISSUES	ISSUES	ISSUES	ISSUES
1. 1 col. x 1" (2-1/4" x 1")	\$19.00	\$18.50	\$18.00	\$17.00	\$16.00
2. 1 col. x 2" (2-1/4" x 2")	\$28.00	\$27.50	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$24.00
3. 1 col. x 3" (2-1/4" x 3")	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$34.50	\$33.00	\$30.00

CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:

Our "Classified" ads are heavily read. Base rates are 35¢ per word with discounts for multiple issues. Please print and punctuate - we are not responsible for error due to long-hand and illegible copy. For more information see classified ad form in the classified section. Credit card customers can place word ads TOLL FREE - Call 1-800-942-0673. (This is for classified word ads only.)

UNIT ADVERTISING:

A. COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

Collectors Showcase Units are 3-1/4" wide x 1-5/8" high and can be bought in multiples. All typesetting is done by Krause Publications and is included in the price.

Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$29.00	\$28.00	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$24.00

B. COMICS TRADER ADS

"No-frills" advertising with a price to match. Design your own ad - just type your ad clearly on an 8-1/2" w x 8-1/2" h sheet of paper. We will reduce your Trader ad to fit a 1/9 page space (3-1/4" w x 3-1/4" h). Super Traders should be typed on an 8-1/2" w x 8-1/2" h sheet of paper which will be reduced to fit a 5" x 5" space.

Regular Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 6 Trader spaces per page per advertiser.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$40.00	\$39.00	\$38.00	\$36.00	\$33.00

Super Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 2 Super Trader spaces per advertiser per page.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$108.00	\$106.00	\$104.00	\$99.00	\$90.00

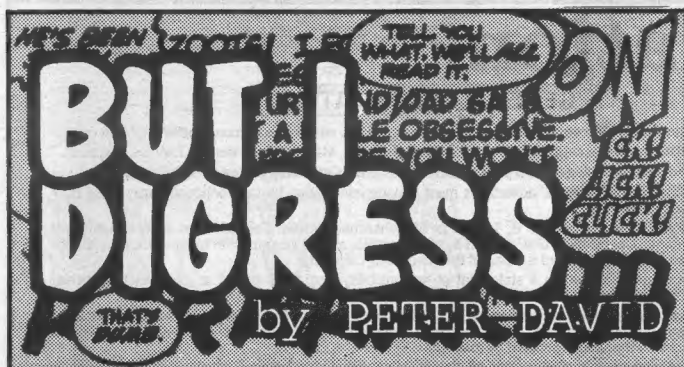
C. COMICS STRIPS

Comics Strip ads are 10" w x 2 2/3" h and are reserved for publishers promoting their comics titles.

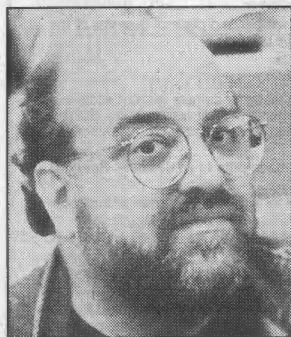
1 Issue	4 Issues
\$85.00	\$300.00

D. RETAILER DIRECTORY \$3.50 per issue

Leads fans to your cash register! List your store name, address, phone number and 15 words of description. Sold in 26 and 52 week increments. It's targeted more to the comics buff than the yellow pages - and it's more cost effective. If you sell COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE in your store, we will publish your listing in bold face type at no extra charge.



Do not seek great depths of comics wisdom in the following words. It's just, well, something that happened to me that's kind of bizarre, and I went along with it because I thought, "Well, I might be able to get a column out of it."



Why do we need villains?

Thoughts by Peter David

Villains are in the boredom-killing business. The villains put the heroes on the reactive side of the equation. The bad guys are the ones that come up with the plans to take over the world and the ways and means to carry them out. The heroes then have one job: thwart the villains.

From a literary point of view, the villains are the positive factors, pushing for a change in the status quo, while the heroes could actually be seen as negative, working their damndest to make sure things stay the way they are.

Without the villains, the heroes are nothing. The only thing they have left to do is stop natural disasters, which in itself is noble, but, again, it's purely reactive — to nature. At least, when they're fighting villains, the heroes have a chance to head them off and prevent the damage from happening in the first place.

I was driving home the other morning, and had my radio tuned to a Long Island radio station, 103.1. It's an oldies station, and I love it, because I never know what sort of memories are suddenly going to be stirred up when I listen to it. It's the auditory equivalent of jamming a stick into the silted bottom of a pond and then blinking in surprise at whatever happens to be dredged up by the impact.

They were asking trivia questions. The challenge was to answer three questions related to horror and suspense films, within 30 seconds. I listened as a woman called in to take a shot at it.

The first question was, "In a 1960 film, Anthony Perkins played a homicidal maniac fixated on his mother."

I was already saying "Psycho," when the DJ continued, "What was the name of the hotel which he owned?"

"The Bates Motel," she replied, and I realized that I would have blown it. The phrasing was designed to make you blurt out a premature and wrong answer.

I listened, playing along for the second: "What 1968 movie starring Mia Farrow was about witchcraft?"

"Rosemary's Baby," I said, and the woman echoed it a moment later. Easy enough, although I always thought of the antagonists more as Satanists than witches, but that's splitting hairs.

"What was the name of the teenage actress," came the third and last question, "who was possessed in *The Exorcist*?"

"Linda Blair," I said immediately. Dead silence on the radio.

"Linda Blair," I repeated, trying to urge the caller to intuit the answer through my overwhelming psychic connection.

Nothing.

"Aw, c'mon! Linda Blair!" I said with unseemly irritation. This was bugging the heck out of me. How could someone not know this? A film which shocked the movie-going public at the time (although by today's standards, it could probably run on "Nick at Nite" and not provoke a

raised eyebrow) and catapulted Blair, with her spinning head, into the public eye (and such G-rated subsequent epics as *Born Innocent*, *Chained Heat*, and — most horrifying of all — *Roller Boogie*). Who could forget Linda Blair?

"Uhm ... Linda ..." she started, struggling to try to come up with the last name.

And her time was up. "We'll see if someone else can answer all three questions. Call in," the DJ said.

I felt a bubbling sense of moral outrage (which, I admit, has a low boiling point; I become morally outraged if I have to wait at a train crossing). These were easy questions! Who couldn't nail all three within 30 seconds? It was just silly — to say nothing of being an insult to one of the premiere pea-soup-vomiting actresses of her generation.

I had to do something about this. I could not stand still for the insult. I could not let this affront go unavenged.

Aw, the hell with it. I just wanted to win.

This has always been my greatest asset — and my greatest liability. I have an overwhelming drive to win, which has helped to propel me along my career path. This, in and of itself, is a plus. On the other hand, I'm a lousy loser. If you want someone on your team who's going to play as if his life depended on it, you want me. If you want someone who's going to be a good sport if you lose, get someone else.

If I know I'm going to be faced with a challenge, I'll prepare for it with life-and-death intensity, no matter how stupid that challenge may be, just because I have a drive to win. When I agreed to the stupid debate with Todd McFarlane, I prepared myself to such a degree that consequently — when I trounced him — I made it look so easy and effortless that it seemed as though I was beating up on a helpless punching bag. I'd overprepared and looked like a bully.

When playing a game, I play to win (unless it's, y'know, against my 6-year-old or something). If I don't win, I get annoyed with myself. Remember Kirk in *Star Trek II* saying, "I don't like to lose?" I should get a bumper sticker that says that. I mean, no one likes to lose, but it's not that big a deal to some people. To me — it is. That's why, when I win an award, it means a lot to me. I like to win. Whenever possible. Sue me. To a degree, I try to avoid board games and card games in the same manner that an alcoholic avoids booze: I don't do well with the downside of it. The last time I played *Monopoly* was 14 years ago. I lost so badly that I knocked the entire board off the table, sending pieces flying every-

where.

This did not serve me well in high school, particularly, because I would join athletic teams in order to find social acceptance, since that was the only way in the jock town where I lived that one could find social acceptance. Unfortunately, I was totally inept at any major sport. Lousy soccer player, lousy basketball player, lousy baseball player. The heart was willing; the flesh was hopeless. Contests of the mind I could win; contests of the body, forget it. So I was drawn to comics, identifying with heroes for whom no physical challenge was too daunting, and they would always triumph over those who would try to put them down.

Still, physical competition and my relative lack of skill at it has always screamed "high school" to my psyche and brings up unpleasant memories.

But the radio challenge was a cakewalk. This was something I could win with no effort and no risk of humiliation.

Moments later I got home, picked up the phone, and started dialing. Hit a busy signal for the first minute and figured I didn't have a prayer. Legions of Linda Blair fans were, no doubt, sharing my indignation at the slighting — via lapse of the public consciousness — of this quality actress. Everyone had to be calling in with the right answer.

I got through in a little over a minute and wound up getting the on-air announcer. "Hi, I wanted to take a shot at the trivia questions," I said.

"Oh good!" he said. "Because we still haven't gotten a right answer to the last question. It's a trick question."

Immediately alarm bells went off in my head. A trick? It seemed so straightforward. They'd said "teenage." Was there a teen in the film I'd forgotten about, other than Blair? Maybe she hadn't been a teen-ager in the film and the answer was, "Nobody!"

"There's a trick to it?" I said nervously.

"Don't worry, you'll be fine," he said confidently. I was pleased at his certainty on both our behalfs. Me, I jotted down "Linda Blair" on a napkin just to make sure I didn't blank on her name.

They rolled tape (since I wouldn't be on "live," but, rather, about five minutes later. It avoids problems if a contestant shouts, "Oh [insert obscene expletive here]!" in case they screw up), and he started firing the questions at me. I answered the first two with confidence. At least I didn't feel guilty about "building" on the previous contestant's work. I'd known the answers.

He then asked me the *Exorcist* question. With just a millisecond of hesitation, I said, "Linda Blair?"

"That's right!" he exhorted. "We have a winner!"

I was very pleased, of course. And deep within me, the high-school student who had carried all sorts of useless bits of information in his head and was reviled by all the jocks and always felt unhappy because he couldn't measure up to the demands of the athletic community — that student rejoiced in the triumph.

"And we'll be getting those Knicks tickets off to you," the announcer was saying.

My mental congratulations slammed to a halt.

Knicks tickets? Knicks? My mind wandered for a moment. Say "Knicks" to me, I'll think you're talking about what you get from a bad shave. Knicks?

"— for this Thursday's game against the 76ers at Nassau Coliseum!"

"Knicks ... that's a basketball team, right?" my mind said, and fortunately enough my mouth — on auto-pilot — simply said, "That's great! Thanks!"

"Plus you'll be eligible to join in our half-time contest for further prizes!" he added.

I felt my blood run cold.

Half-time contest. I did *not* like the sound of that.

And when the DJ was done chatting with me and passed me over to the assistant so that she could get my full name, address, and the like, I asked her what was up with the half-time competition.

"Well, what do I have to do?" I asked cautiously.

"We're going to make you dance," she said.

OK. OK, I could handle that. Barryshnikov I'm not, but I've got a basic sense of rhythm. And I've taken some dance lessons. I can do a basic swing step, some mambo, hustle. It didn't seem to make sense, but I could handle that —

"No, I'm kidding," she said, amused by her own joke. "No, we're going to bring you down to the court, and you'll have the opportunity to make a free throw from the foul line to win more prizes!"

My harmless game of knowledge, my trivia contest that I was certain I could win with no evoking of ghosts of my horrendous teen athletic career — had just been taken to a new, potentially astronomic opportunity for personal humiliation.

And somewhere from within me, that inept high-school student said, "You are so screwed." And I had the sick feeling that he was right.

Peter David, writer of stuff, can be written to at To Be Continued Inc., PO Box 239, Bayport, NY 11705. Next week: Peter on the floor of Nassau Coliseum, being booed by 13,000 fans. Bring popcorn.

7 CANAL ST., DEPT. C, ROCHESTER, NY 14608-1910

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<i>Fits Pre-1950 Comics</i>		
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1000	35.40	46.30
5000	165.00	214.30
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	3 MII	3 MII
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THERE'S GONNA BE TROUBLE DOWN IN MEGA-CITY ONE!

I
AM THE
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BOLLAND

PREDATOR VERSUS JUDGE DREDD

By **JOHN WAGNER**
and **ALCATENA!**

Covers by **BRIAN BOLLAND,**
DERMOT POWER,
and **IGOR KORDEY!**

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